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No 61,168

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1982

Price twenty pence

Preview

Today's 16-page entertainment guide Preview offers a glimpse of the new musical Cops and Dolls—plus what is best in films, television drama and a guide to weekends away.

Fraser quits Harrods group

Sir Hugh Fraser resigned yesterday as a director of the House of Fraser, Britain's largest retail group, from which he was dismissed as chairman more than a year ago. His move to leave the group, which owns Harrods and was built up by his father, is said to have stunned fellow directors, many of whom he appointed, but who were him out as chairman last January.

MPs' salvo on Invincible

Conservative MPs criticized the sale of the Invincible, one of the Royal Navy's most powerful ships, to Australia at a "knock-down" price of £175m. In Melbourne the Labour Opposition threatened to set the carrier if it returned to power.

Profits rise but ICI is gloomy

ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturing group, which is an acknowledged indicator of industry's health, said that it could see little evidence of better times ahead despite a £51m rise in its profits last year.

Reagan rethinks nuclear cuts

The Reagan Administration is working on a radical proposal for substantial reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, according to American officials in Washington.

£20,000 award to J. P. R. Williams

J. P. R. Williams, the Welsh rugby player, has been awarded £20,000 in libel damages in the High Court. He sued The Daily Telegraph, Mr William Deedes, the editor, and Mr John Reason, the newspaper's former rugby correspondent, over articles branding him a "shamateur".

Rees-Mogg to be arts chairman

Sir William Rees-Mogg, vice-chairman of the BBC and former editor of The Times, is to be the next chairman of the Arts Council in succession to Mr Kenneth Robinson, who completes five years as chairman next month.

Hull City are up for sale

Hull City, unable to stem losses of £9,000 a week, have called in a receiver and will be put up for sale. It is hoped that the fourth division club will be bought as a going concern.

Leaders page 11

Letters: On TV by satellite, from Mr George Howard, and Mr Norman Collins; industry loans plan, from Mr Leslie Priestley; Oxford, from Dr Brian Thwaites. Leading articles: Soviet grain; BBC; caning children. Features: page 10 The Labour Party's phoney peace; how the investigative reporter has turned from hero to villain. Obituaries: page 12 Mr Nikolay Andreyev, Mr George Savage. Entertainment guide, page 13

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Parents win right to ban school beatings

By Lucy Hodges

British parents have the right to refuse to allow their children to be beaten at school, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in Strasbourg yesterday.

In a judgment which will have far-reaching effects in British schools and could herald the end of corporal punishment in this country, the judges decided by six votes to one that the United Kingdom had broken the European Convention on Human Rights. This is the eighth time the court has found this country in breach of the convention.

The decision, from which Sir Vincent Evans, the British judge, dissented, was greeted yesterday with a marked lack of enthusiasm by the teachers' union. Those campaigning for abolition of the cane were exultant and the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), said it was writing to the Government immediately to ask for beating to be banned.

Mr Tom Scott, education secretary of Stopp, said he thought the verdict would deal a death blow to corporal punishment. "This is the best day in the 14-year history of Stopp," he said. "We are absolutely delighted. It is a tremendous day also for children, parents, teachers and society as a whole, because corporal punishment is not only nasty and humiliating, it is counter-productive."

"This judgment will remove fear from the education system. Schools are going to be better places, better for teachers and for children."

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the decision would put heads in a difficult position in which some parents would not be beaten and others would not. "This could undermine the sanction," he said.

"Whether you are talking about corporal punishment, or any other sanction, you cannot have one section of pupils who may be subject to punishment and another section who cannot be punished." The judgment did not ban caning, he

said. "My advice to members is to carry on caning. The judgment does not alter the situation in England and Wales at all."

He called on the Government to declare whether it was going to recognize the judgment or not. The Department of Education has refused to say anything until it has studied the decision.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said it was all very well for judges sitting in Strasbourg to make pronouncements but they did not have to work in our schools. This decision would add to teachers' problems, he said.

The judges were considering two complaints from Scottish women. Mrs Grace Campbell, of Glasgow, and Mrs Jane Cosans, of Fife, continued the use of the Scottish tawse, a leather strap applied to the palm of the hand.

Their sons were not actually beaten, which was why the judges did not find they had been subjected to torture or inhuman treatment. But they did rule that because the parents could not have their children taught "in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions" this was a breach of the convention.

Mrs Campbell's case was based on the refusal of Strathclyde regional education authority, which has since decided to ban the tawse, to promise that her son, then aged 11, would not be beaten. Mrs Cosans's son was told to report for the belt after he had broken a school rule. He refused and was suspended from school, and Fife regional education authority refused to guarantee that he would not be beaten.

Amersham may be last state bonanza

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

The Government, embarrassed by the heavy over-subscription for shares in Amersham International and the anger of the Opposition in Parliament, is to consider selling state-owned companies by tender in future, so as to realize their full value.

This was conceded with evident reluctance by the Prime Minister in the Commons yesterday under heavy pressure from Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, who said it was a scandal that State assets should be put on the market and sold at knock-down prices.

Mr Foot added, to Labour cheers and Conservative protests, that some of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's advisers who gave wrong advice on the sale of the shares had made "at least a million pounds out of it."

Particulars of the offer for sale of Amersham, a highly successful company which makes radioactive isotopes for medical and industrial uses, show that the two merchant banks which handled the sale, N.M. Rothschild and Sons and Morgan Grenfell and Co, are to receive fees of £1,155,000 from the Secretary of State for Energy and £132,000 from the company, from which they pay underwriting commission and fees to brokers.

The Labour Party, hostile from the start to the sale of Amersham, is indignant that the selling of two lower a price for the shares has resulted in an apparent loss to the taxpayer of up to £20m.

Mr Foot pressed Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, for a debate because of "gross injury to the national credit" and to ensure that the same thing did not happen again, particularly when the oil exploration and production business of the British National Oil Corporation comes to be marketed, under the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill now before Parliament. This will be the biggest sale of public assets to the private sector.

The offer for sale at 142p per share of 50 million ordinary shares of 25p, of which 44,860,000 belonged to the Government, was subscribed last week 24.6 times by applications from 1,000,000 investors, many of whom were offered special terms, and by the public.

Ministers are more sensitive to the charge of mis-handling the sale than they care to show publicly. International's Stock Market debut turned out to be one for the record book yesterday. The company was last night valued at £94.5m—£23.5m above the Government's sale price (Our Financial Staff writes).

The trading floor was opened 10 minutes earlier to allow dealers to form the usual scrum.

By the close of business last night, it was estimated that 25 million of the original 50 million shares had changed hands.

Dr Stuart Burgess, the group's managing director and chief executive, who was in the gallery, refused to comment about his reaction to the jump in share price. He said he would not be selling any of his 2,500 shares.

The premium achieved by Amersham far exceeds any of the other recent recent sell-offs. British Aerospace, which came to market last February, opened with a premium of 25p over the offer price of 175p and Cable & Wireless could only muster a 30p premium over the offer price of 168p.

A Rothschild spokesman said last night (the Press Association reports): "It is easy to judge with hindsight. With the benefit of hindsight one can say that the price was too low."

"It is irrefutable that, on the evidence we have today, the issue could have been done at a higher price."

But, the price, it is argued, appeared to be a little reckless. "Intimidation" row, page 2

Scourge of husbands, saviour of animals



Mr James Dorling, aged 60, who retires today as High Court Tipstaff in London. During his 17 years in the job he has restored scores of missing children to their parents, arrested hundreds of wife-beaters, tracked down a cat used in a television commercial and taken charge of circus animals.

New Begin tirade against Schmidt

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 25

Diplomatic relations between Israel and West Germany suffered another serious blow today when Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, launched his second vitriolic personal attack in less than a year against Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his war record.

Mr Begin issued a statement refusing to apologize to Herr Schmidt for comments he made about him during the Israeli election campaign in May.

"I will not apologize to Mr Schmidt. Rather, I counsel him to speak as a free man who fought for the continued existence and the liberation of the Jewish people, that he take an example from his predecessor, Mr Brandt, visit Warsaw, go to the site where, once stood, go down on his knees and ask forgiveness of the Jewish people."

Mr Begin urged Herr Schmidt to seek forgiveness from "all nations loving justice and liberty for what his countrymen perpetrated under the National Socialist regime against my people at the time when Mr Schmidt remained faithful to the personal path he had given to Adolf Hitler, as a soldier and officer in his army."

The outburst was prompted by a report in the Hebrew newspaper Yedioth Acharonoth, which quoted Herr Schmidt as saying that Mr Begin must apologize for his remarks last May, or he would not visit Israel.

[This was denied by Bonn, whose spokesman said the report was "a pure product of fantasy." Reuters.]

The original attack was made after Herr Schmidt was reported to have said during a visit to Saudi Arabia that West Germany had an obligation to the Arabs.

Mr Begin said: "Mr Schmidt mentioned Auschwitz and said that he acknowledged the obligation of Germany towards a number of peoples—but the Jewish people was not listed amongst them. Mr Schmidt spoke of Germany's obligation towards the Palestinians and said not a word of Germany's obligation towards the Jewish people."

Car workers asked to take pay cut

By Rupert Morris

Workers at Aston Martin Lagonda's plant at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, have been asked to make a wage cut to enable the luxury sports-car maker to achieve financial viability. Their average pay is £145 a week.

Aston Martin has a history of financial problems since 1975 when, with government help, it was rescued by a consortium.

Mr Tony Penman, chairman of the works committee, confirmed that wage cuts had been suggested, but was reluctant to give details.

Both he and the company denied reports that workers had been told that the company would face closure if the workforce did not agree to wage cuts of as much as £50 for each worker.

Next week, without the benefit of the town hall committee which has been shut down by the strike, the council intends to work out next year's rate. It is a crucial issue for the elections due in May; Islington has one of the highest rate levels in London, and the council is well aware that the size of the rise could decide the election.

Mr Evans says the result will be an increase of less than 15 per cent. After removing the outside elements of the rise and taking into account, that means Islington will be reducing its rate slightly. Quite how this feat is to be achieved has yet to be explained.

Mr Evans is more than ready to talk of savings which can be effected without altering staffing levels, but redundancies and reorganization are clearly on the way, to be bitterly opposed by the local authority unions led by Nalco.

Continued on back page, col 5

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Russians turn to Argentina

By Our Foreign Staff

The big shortfall in the Soviet harvest for the third year running has led the Russians to make massive purchases of Argentine grain, the first since the 1981, official Soviet figures show imports from Argentina of 2,068m tonnes (about £1,420m). Moscow buys meat and grain makes up the bulk of sales. For the corresponding period of 1980, Russian imports were valued at only 891m tonnes.

Recently published figures show that, from January to September, 1981, Soviet exports to the developing nations were 6,100m tonnes, but imports exceeded that at 6,300m tonnes. In the similar period for 1980, the reverse was true, with exports at 4,600m tonnes and imports at 3,800m tonnes. Experts believe that the changed pattern is explained by the surge in purchases from Argentina.

The Soviet Communist Party is expected to give the total figures for the 1981 harvest at

New lorry weight limits expected to be modified

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, is expected to announce next month that he has dropped his proposals to increase maximum lorry weights to 40 tonnes and to allow four-axle articulated vehicles to run at 34 tonnes instead of the present maximum of 32.5 tonnes.

Instead, he is likely to ask for a maximum weight, for five axle vehicles, of 38 tonnes.

The expected concessions come after consultations between Mr Howell and officers of the Conservative backbench transport committee, since the revolt by Tory MPs in December against his White Paper. It became apparent then that the proposals, as they stood, would not get through the Commons. The transport committee officers have been pressing a number of compromises on Mr Howell in an attempt to make his package more palatable to backbench opinion.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

BR talks go to next stage

British Rail and two of the railway unions yesterday formally agreed to move to the next stage in the timetable of talks laid down by the McCarthy inquiry.

All three rail unions will meet British Rail next week, probably on Monday under the auspices of the Railways Staff National Council. If there is again no agreement, as seems likely, the issue of rostering will go next month to the Railway Staff National Tribunal, also headed by Lord McCarthy.

The meeting yesterday of the Railway Staff National Council lasted for 30 minutes. Mr Raymond Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) said as he left the meeting that there could be no agreement because British Rail's proposals for the elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day, which Aslef has said it regards as sacrosanct.

A strike by guards at South-east severely disrupted services to and from Liverpool Street, in the Eastern Region, yesterday.

Burnet top TV journalist

Alastair Burnet, of Independent Television News, was the winner of the top award for television journalism in the annual awards announced in London last night by the Royal Television Society.

A second ITN man, Jon Snow, is named as winner of the international news category for his reports from El Salvador and Tim Sebastian, of the BBC, becomes television journalist of the year for his work in Poland.

Kate Adey accepted the award presented to BBC News for its coverage of the Guinness famine in Northern Ireland.

'Resign' call to Lady Simey

Merseyside police yesterday demanded the resignation of Lady Simey, aged 76, chairman of the county's police committee, after her allegations to a Commons select committee on Wednesday of police intimidation and victimization of complainants.

Soldier on glue sniffing charge

A soldier believed to be the first to be charged under military law with sniffing glue appeared at a court martial at Bulford Camp, Wiltshire, yesterday.

Royal Artillery gunner Stephen Beckwith was said to have been found guilty of the offence of being under the influence of a powerful solvent while on leave from the Second Field Regiment, based at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain. Beckwith pleads not guilty to contravening the Army Act which conduct prejudicial to good order.

Leaflets attack Hitler play

Leaflets attacking *The Portage to San Cristobal of Añi*, the new play by Hitler at the Marlow Theatre in London, accusing it of encouraging antisemitism and defending Hitler's persecution of the Jews, have been handed to the theatre's management for distribution to patrons.

Bus revenue cuts rate rise

An increase in the use of West Yorkshire buses enabled the county council yesterday to announce a cut in its proposed rates from 46.8p recommended in January, to 44.5p, an increase of 18.4 per cent over 1981-82.

'No' to Civil Service offer

An attempt by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants to persuade the removal of the chairman of the Civil Service arbitration tribunal, Mr David Calcutt, QC, was defeated yesterday at a meeting of the nine unions in the service.

Haughey retains leadership as challenge fails

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey was unanimously elected as Fianna Fail candidate for the Irish premiership at yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary party, which saw the challenge to his position collapse amid calls for unity.

The end of Mr Desmond O'Malley's leadership challenge came half way through the meeting, only hours after he had announced formally that he would stand.

Mr O'Malley, a former Cabinet minister, withdrew his name after the party's 81 MPs had heard senior figures urge that nothing should be done which would undermine Fianna Fail's chances of forming the republic's next minority government.

Yesterday's events brought rare intervention from Mr James Lynch, the former Fianna Fail leader, who resigned in 1979 after backbench plots which eventually gave Mr Haughey the leadership.

Mr Lynch said Mr O'Malley had been right to let his name go forward in the light of numerous requests from party members for his return. Fianna Fail failed to win an overall majority.

The statement was interpreted last night as an attempt by Mr Lynch to rally party members demoralized by yesterday's vote.

After the vote in Leinster House an elected Mr Haughey said he had never worried about the challenge.

But the criticism will continue and he still must win independent support if Fianna Fail is to form the next government on March 9.

The collapse of the attempt to oust Mr Haughey is a serious blow to Mr O'Malley, who yesterday announced his decision to stand after four days of speculation. Most serious is his withdrawal of the challenge less than 12 hours after publicly throwing down the gauntlet.

The Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services yesterday received an official public reprimand for failing to exercise effective financial control over four regional boards which last year spent more than £447m (Anthony Bevin writes).

A White Paper summary of accounts for 1980-81, published yesterday, carried a report from Mr Denis Calvert, the comptroller and Auditor General, pointing out that seven separate criticisms had been made.

Weaknesses included stores control, with disparities between actual stocks and computer records; a high incidence of overtime and salary overpayments; delays in recovering considerable amounts due from staff for medical, private functions and telephone calls; the free issue of foodstuffs to staff and others; "serious shortcomings in the procedures for the granting of car loans to staff"; and a lack of action in identifying the amount of public funding for a sports club.

The White Paper said the department regarded the general standard of financial control as reasonably satisfactory, and that weaknesses would be followed up.

But Mr Calvert said: "I have noted that several of these matters were also mentioned in the appointed auditor's reports for previous years, so that the department's follow-up has not always been effective."

'Intimidation' row at Times newspapers

By Staff Reporters

Clerical workers in several departments of *The Times* and *Sunday Times* yesterday spoke of intimidation by their chapel members.

Members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsop) in editorial, personal, library, and other departments, said many more would have come forward but for the threat they would lose their union cards.

The company has said that the 210 who have received dismissal notices would have been dismissed if they had not been given the opportunity to resign.

Despite assurances by national union officials to the contrary, Natsop branch officials told clerical workers at the meeting on Wednesday, which voted to reject the company's offer, that cards would be removed.

"That is the main stumbling block," one male clerical worker said. "But even so, if we had had a secret ballot on the motion of rejection, the results would have been very different."

Her feelings were "widely shared," she claimed. "I think a lot more people are going to return the notices being sent to their own homes than Mr Fitzpatrick would believe or like."

Half a dozen staff in the correspondence department, which deals with post and messages, denied intimidation and declared themselves firmly behind chapel policy.

One man, who like his colleagues declined to be named, said: "The only pressure has come from the company seeking 210 redundancies. There has been none on the union side." The same message came from four women on the Natsop switchboard who between them have worked 51 years for the company. They accused staff considering voluntary redundancy of being "pariahs" wanting to "sell their jobs" and said the switchboard would be "completely wrecked" if 16 of the 22 jobs had to go.

Another operator said: "Some of the critics have only been here two or three years. I have been in the print since 1955. All this business about being intimidated is making us sick. You can't intimidate people of our age."

Mr Murdoch's letter said that the terms of the offer—which range from a minimum of 12 weeks pay to a maximum of £25,000—would very often mean payments of more than four times the statutory scale.

It added: "I urge all of you who wish to volunteer to do so and to ignore unreasonable and short-sighted opposition to what we propose."

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Strasbourg judgment extracts

Personal beliefs on caning upheld

Summary of the judgment by the European Court of Human Rights on corporal punishment (applicants Mrs Grace Campbell and Mrs Jane Cosans).

Second sentence of article 2 of Protocol No 1

1. The court recalled that a contracting state is bound to respect parents' philosophical convictions in the exercise of each and every function which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching.

Concomitant to the Government's submission, the court had, in other words, to consider the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

2. The expression, "philosophical convictions", was not, in the court's view, capable of exhaustive definition but, in the context of article 2, denoted views which assumed a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance, were worthy of respect in a democratic society, and were not incompatible with human dignity and did not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education.

The applicants' views on corporal punishment satisfied these various criteria and did therefore, contrary to the Government's submission, amount to "philosophical convictions".

3. The court rejected the Government's plea that the policy of moving gradually towards the abolition of corporal punishment was in itself sufficient to comply with the duty to respect "philosophical convictions".

The court also did not regard it as established that any such solution, the latter being partly incompatible with the United Kingdom's reservation to article 2, on which the Government had relied, whereby the obligation to respect philosophical convictions had to be compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training, and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.

The court agrees with the commission that neither of these solutions, the latter being partly incompatible with the United Kingdom's reservation to article 2, on which the Government had relied, whereby the obligation to respect philosophical convictions had to be compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training, and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.

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Difference of opinion: Sir Vincent Evans, who dissented from the Strasbourg verdict, and Mrs Grace Campbell, one of the mothers who brought the case.

judgment of August 13, 1981, series A, No 44 p25, para 63) and are not incompatible with human dignity; in addition, they must not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education.

The applicants' views on corporal punishment satisfied these various criteria and did therefore, contrary to the Government's submission, amount to "philosophical convictions".

3. The court rejected the Government's plea that the policy of moving gradually towards the abolition of corporal punishment was in itself sufficient to comply with the duty to respect "philosophical convictions".

The court also did not regard it as established that any such solution, the latter being partly incompatible with the United Kingdom's reservation to article 2, on which the Government had relied, whereby the obligation to respect philosophical convictions had to be compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training, and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.

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First sentence of Article 2 of Protocol No 1

1. Jeffrey Cosans' suspension had been motivated by his and his parents' refusal to accept that he receive or be liable to receive corporal punishment.

2. Applying its previous case-law, the court found that the situation in which the applicants' sons had found themselves did not amount to "torture" or "inhuman treatment". Furthermore, it would not constitute "degrading treatment" unless they had undergone, in the eyes of others or in their own eyes, humiliation or abasement of a minimum level of severity that had to be assessed with regard to the circumstances of the case.

3. Corporal chastisement is traditional in Scottish schools and, indeed, appears to be favoured by a large majority of parents. Of itself, this is not conclusive of the issue before the court, for the threat of a particular measure is not excluded from the category of "degrading treatment" simply because the measure has been in use for a long time or even meets, with general approval.

However, particularly in view of the above-mentioned circumstances obtaining in Scotland, it is not established that pupils at a school where such punishment is used are, solely by reason of the risk of being subjected thereto, humiliated or debased in the eyes of others to the requisite degree, or at all.

As to whether the applicants' sons were humiliated or debased in their own eyes, the court observes first that a threat directed to an exceptionally sensitive person may have a significant effect on him, but nevertheless be inconceivably degrading, and conversely, an exceptionally sensitive person might be deeply affected by a threat that could be described as degrading only by a distortion of the ordinary and usual meaning of the word.

In any event, in the case of these two children, the court, like the commission, notes that it has not been shown by means of medical certificates or otherwise that they suffered any adverse psychological or other effects.

Jeffrey Cosans might have experienced feelings of apprehension or disquiet, but they were not sufficient to amount to "degrading treatment", and the court accordingly concluded unanimously that no violation of article 3 had been established.

Article 50 (damages for injured parties)

The Government and counsel for Mrs Campbell had reserved their position on the question of the application of article 50.

Counsel for Mrs Cosans had indicated that she would be seeking a declaration in respect of moral damages and legal costs. The court found this question not to be ready for decision and reserved it.

In accordance with the convention, judgment was given by a chamber composed of seven judges, namely Mr R. Ryssdal (Norwegian), president, Mr J. Cresson (Austrian), Mr Th. Vilhjálmsson (Icelandic), Mr L. Lesch (Luxembourg), Mr L. E. Petiti (French), Sir Vincent Evans (British), Mr R. Macdonald (Canadian), and of Mr M. A. Rissen, registrar, and Mr H. Fetzold, deputy registrar.

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SDP sets out policy for May elections

By Ian Bradley

Social Democrat councils elected next May would sell council houses to tenants, support subsidised public transport and oppose the Government's scheme to provide assisted places in independent schools.

Those are among the main points in a framework programme prepared by the party's policy department. A document setting out the main principles on which SDP candidates will fight the elections has been circulated to area parties.

It lists seven basic principles for policy formation; improving the quality of public services within the limits of available resources, breaking down social divisions and promoting equal opportunities, handing power back to the people, creating an open multiracial society, giving special attention to disadvantaged groups, putting Britain back to work, and protecting the environment.

Although there are very few references in the document to the Liberal Party, there is no doubt that it borrows heavily on the community politics ideas of the SDP's alliance partner, and specifically on the work of the Association of Liberal Councilors.

On education, it commits SDP councils to firm support of the comprehensive principle and opposition to "place buying in independent schools as an ideological weapon".

On housing, it says that

Fix end to Concorde cash, MPs urge

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

The Government should fix a date to end support for Concorde, at present about £20m a year, MPs of the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Committee said yesterday.

Meanwhile they want more determined action by the Government to balance British and French contributions to the aircraft. The Department of Industry and Trade estimated last year that between 1976 and 1983 Britain's support costs would be £238m, or 58 per cent, while those of France would be £176.6m or 41.4 per cent, although the treaty required equal cost-sharing.

The committee while welcoming reduced costs for Concorde announced by the department in December, say "much more effort still needs to be made to ensure that the British taxpayer does not have to provide more money; a firmer hand is required".

They call for a new Concorde balance sheet to be drawn up for both the British and French parliaments, showing "with the same standard of accuracy as would be required under the Companies Act when drawing up a prospectus inviting subscriptions from the public" the balance of advantage between cancellation or continuation on the earliest date recognized as practicable for cancellation.

If, as seems likely, such figures indicate cancellation, "a technical cancellation" from public funds should be fixed and announced.

The committee says: "We are disturbed at the department's apparent satisfaction both with their past and current performance on Concorde cost forecasts. Nevertheless it seems probable that the project, which they concluded last year 'has acquired a life of its own and is out of control', will continue to be so."

The two responsible ministers, Mr Norman Lamont, Secretary of State for Industry, and France's M. Piterman, are to meet before Easter to consider the matter. But one of the options set out after last summer's Thatcher-Mitterrand summit was early cancellation - has mysteriously disappeared from the agenda, apparently on the insistence of the French.

That leaves only "phased run-down", or "indefinite continuation", whatever the MPs may say.

CARAVAN JOBS FOR HILL FARMS

By Hugh Clayton

Tourist caravans should be used to bring jobs to remote upland beauty spots, the National Trust and the Rural and Allied Workers said yesterday. It proposed evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture that farms in the less frequented scenic areas outside national parks should be given planning permission for up to five caravans each.

The union also wanted disused barns to be used for light industry and more forests planted on remote hillside.



Members of PEN, the international association of writers, demonstrating outside the Polish Embassy in London yesterday. They delivered a petition demanding the release of writers imprisoned in Poland. (Left to right): Sir Victor Pritchett, Lady Antonia Pinter, Sir Angus Wilson, Mr Francis King, Mr Harold Pinter and Mr Stephen Spender.

Wormwood Scrubs run by the staff for months, MP says

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Wormwood Scrubs prison, not staying in the country when local children, including their own, suffered from government education cuts. Later that year Mrs Christine Bell won a two-year battle to teach sewing in Armley men's prison, Leeds, after complaining to the Parliamentary All-Party Affairs Group, said yesterday.

He described as "extraordinary" the way the Prison Officers' Association was allowed to go on a "long act of vengeance" after officers were sent in to quell a protest in D wing, the association, Mr Colin Steel, said the officers at Wormwood Scrubs deserved praise, not blame, for the way they prevented a protest from developing into a riot of the kind that devastated Hull, another top security prison, in 1976.

At Wormwood Scrubs there was minimal damage to buildings, the injuries to prisoners and officers were superficial, and the officers' actions afterwards were aimed at containment until control was properly reestablished.

With that in mind, he said, Albany Prison, on the Isle of Wight, was on an earlier stage, showing "six weeks after trouble there".

Increasing militancy by officers culminated in a national industrial dispute in 1979, which resulted in prisoners being held in police cells and other emergency accommodation.

As at Wormwood Scrubs, the dispute showed how much power the local branches of the POA have. And in Puckchurch, a Bristol remand centre, officers refused to show round a member of the Board of Visitors, Mr Rodney Morgan, though he and other members are appointed as public watchdogs.

He accused the association of a "gross abuse of power". The association in turn accused him of undermining discipline.

In 1980 prison officers at Ashford Remand Centre banned education classes for people held pending deportation.

An official of the local branch said members did not see why free education should be provided for people

The use of psychologists and of probation officers as welfare officers has made prison officers fearful that their job will be reduced to that of a turnkey.

At the same time the old hierarchical discipline has been undermined as the supply of recruits from the Services has dried up, to be replaced by more officers with industrial experience, who respond as trade unionists.

There has been growing pressure within the Prison Department to turn governors into "managers", and at one stage a plan was being discussed to do away with the jobs of the tribal elders of the service, the top Chief Officers the equivalent of regimental sergeants-majors.

Mr Brendan O'Neil, chairman of the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said that the theme running through the Wormwood Scrubs report was the difficulty of equating two approaches to staff relations: one of consultation, the other of giving orders.

At some stage orders had to be given and obeyed. "We are in the middle because we don't know what the boundaries are."

Mr Kilroy-Silk said: "The POA could be a most positive and powerful force for reform of the prison system. If they chose to use their power constructively they could provide an environment more stimulating and satisfying than the one we have at the moment they tend to use their power negatively and destructively."

Young are 'aged' to make room

Young offenders are being reclassified as adults and removed to adult penal establishments in order to relieve overcrowding in juvenile establishments, Mr Kilroy-Silk said yesterday (Francis Gibb writes).

He told other MPs examining the Criminal Justice Bill in committee that the Magistrate's Association had expressed concern that the law which allowed juveniles to be reclassified as adults if they were disruptive was being misused.

Interferon tests yield mixed results

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Early results of trials with interferon as a treatment for cancer and for a wide range of virus-induced diseases are a mixture of good news and bad news.

That is the general conclusion to be drawn from a meeting yesterday at the Royal Society, in London, at which doctors and scientists reviewed the likely medical usefulness of that remarkable substance.

The exuberance of two years ago, when interferon was being described as a potential wonder drug of the 1980s, has been subdued to a more conservative view of the scope of its clinical application.

But interferon is showing some reassuring results in treating certain types of tumours and other illnesses. Yet there are side-effects such as fever, malaise and weight loss, after some courses of therapy, and

remissions have not occurred with categories of cancer for which laboratory tests have given reasons to expect a better response.

Giving a status report for the main trials carrying out clinical trials with interferon in cancer in Britain, Dr T. J. Priestman, of the Dudley Hospital, Birmingham, said work was at an early stage of development.

Trials by his group to check for possible side-effects revealed encouraging signs of remissions after a limited number of cancer cases.

A young man with advanced Hodgkin's disease was failing to respond to cytotoxic drug therapy with cyclophosphamide and bleomycin, which is the last line of treatment open to a doctor in those circumstances. The patient received 30-day courses of treatment.

School pays vandalism informers

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Children in Gwent are being offered cash rewards by the county council for informing on school vandals. The payments are part of a campaign to combat attacks on schools, which last year cost more than £100,000 to repair.

The children are given £10 if their information leads to a conviction and this year £80 has been paid out. Their names are kept secret from intimidation.

Mr Roger Evans, chairman of the council's building and development committee, said: "There seems to be no downward trend in the senseless, wanton damage or the cost of repairs and there seems no pattern to it either."

Notices are displayed at every school in the county informing children that they will be rewarded in confidence if they help to convict young wreckers. Books have been burnt, windows and light bulbs smashed and paint smeared over classrooms.

Mr Evans appealed to people living near schools to be "public spirited and courageous" enough to report any suspicious incidents to the police.

Det Chief Supt Gordon Jones, head of Gwent CID, said: "We are tremendously encouraged by the enthusiastic attitude of comprehensive school headmasters."

Mrs Jacqueline McLoughlin, wife of the headmaster of St Saviour's Primary School, in Tostee, Liverpool, where children aged nine and ten have terrorized staff, spoke yesterday of her husband's happy days at the school. She said lessons ran smoothly until after last summer's riots.

No ban on teacher of Welsh

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has decided not to ban Mr Wayne Williams, a Welsh language activist, from teaching in state schools.

Mr Williams, aged 28, of Tregaron, Dyfed, who is a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, served a prison sentence last year for conspiring to damage broadcasting equipment in the campaign for an all-Welsh television channel.

He is at present suspended from his job as a teacher of Welsh in a mid-Wales school. Last month a High Court judge granted a temporary injunction to a group of parents who want Mr Williams removed from Llanidloes High School, Powys.

The parents, led by Mr Lawrence Smith, a retired bank manager, who sought the injunction, say Mr Williams is not fit to teach because of his prison record. But strong support for him has come from other parents, who say he is an excellent teacher and has never taken politics into the classroom.

Mr Williams, who is married, with a baby daughter, learnt yesterday that Sir Keith had decided after careful consideration not to put his name on List 99, of teachers banned from working in state schools because of political or criminal activities.

Sir Keith has warned Mr Williams that if he is guilty of further misconduct he is unlikely to escape disqualification. Sir Keith says his decision does not affect the right of Powys County Council to end Mr Williams's employment for misconduct.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "I am very pleased that I am not being blacklisted. This means that I could, in theory, teach at any other school except Llanidloes. 'I think the decision of the minister removes the objection of some parents who say I should not be allowed to resume my job because no reasonable education authority would employ me. Presumably Sir Keith does not believe that is the case'."

Conflict in the air

Rise of the flying motor cycle

By David Nicholson-Lord

Objections are growing to a noisy breed of small manned aircraft, known collectively as microlights and described by their opponents as "flying motor cycles".

Despite increasing popularity, microlights are subject to no statutory airworthiness or pilot training controls. Critics say they are also the source of growing noise pollution for which there is no adequate redress.

Enthusiasts claim to have quietened their craft and say they are sensitive to allegations of noise nuisance, but microlights' arrival in Britain has exposed what many council environmental health officers believe is a loophole in the noise control law.

The Noise Abatement Society, which is seeking to have them banned, has described them as "uncontrolled and uncontrollable".

Microlights are often little more than powered hang gliders, offering the delight of flying at a fraction of the cost of a normal light aircraft. Membership of the



Daring young man: The flying machine that has swept into controversy

British Microlight Aircraft Association has risen fivefold in a year and there are now at least 800 microlights in Britain.

Popularity has also brought complaints, centring on engine and exhaust noise. Earlier models used snowmobile or lawnmower engines and featured direct-drive propellers, acknowledged by Mr Ronald Bott, the association secretary, to be noisy. Newer microlights have 250-450cc two-stroke engines, lending credence to the "flying motor cycle" charge.

Mr David Johnson, chief assistant, an environmental health officer at Tandridge District Council, in east Surrey, says they emit a

continuous, high-pitched noise, concentrated in one area. Mr Johnson investigated complaints about microlights using a local field but found he could take no action unless they broke air navigation rules.

That is because they are classed as aircraft and are therefore exempt from the Control of Pollution Act, 1974. Yet it is precisely their dissimilarity from private light aircraft that appeals to enthusiasts and annoys objectors.

Microlights can be taken to pieces, folded away on a roof rack or trailer, assembled in less than half an hour and launched from a cricket pitch. They are slower than light aircraft, averaging 35-55mph, compared with 100-200mph, and fly at much lower altitudes, about 1,000 ft against 4,000 ft.

The Civil Aviation Authority plans to enforce microlight pilot training procedures from next September, but has not yet set a date for the introduction of airworthiness standards. Noise certification procedures seem even further off.

Glider pilots dispute a hanging matter

By Ronald Faux

A wrangle about the airspace over Dunstable Down has broken out between hang gliders and the pilots of traditional gliders. The Local Gliding Club, which has used the thermal air currents over Tottenham, Bedfordshire, for fifty years, is concerned about the "probability" of a fatal collision involving members of the Dunstable Hang Gliding Club.

Conversely, hang glider operators say there have been attempts to frighten them off. A photograph of a hang glider trailing its steel cable close to where hang gliders were flying has been handed to the Civil Aviation Authority.

"It was a stupid and provocative thing to do. In other flying areas the two types of glider share the same airspace without problems. We believe it is only a

small number of LGC members who are causing the trouble", a hang glider pilot said.

The ridge in dispute is owned by Bedfordshire County Council and offers some of the best gliding conditions within easy reach of London.

When Mr Christopher Ellison, a hang glider pilot, reported a hang glider pilot for dangerous flying, both the club and the council withdrew their permits. In defiance, the hang gliders continued to take off until three pilots were prosecuted at Dunstable magistrates' court under the by-law.

The case was lost because the magistrates considered the by-law ambiguous and unreasonably partial to the London Gliding Club, and because a club member sat on the Bedfordshire County Council leisure committee.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Boy drowns after night out

Simon Hedges, aged 15, drowned early today after he and a friend had tried to row across Portsmouth harbour having missed the last ferry from Gosport. He was washed out to sea after their dinghy overturned. Kevin Crillin, aged 18, managed to swim to the shore.

The boys had been to visit their girl friends, Mrs Jean Hedges, of Hampshire Green, Warren Park, near Portsmouth, said. Mrs Pamela Crillin said: "They were both wearing heavy clothes. Kevin tried to pull Simon out of the water but could not manage it."

Mrs Hedges said: "We just do not believe Simon could have drowned. We are hoping he got ashore and that he is too frightened to come home."

Police called off their search for the boy after 10 hours. A damaged rowing boat was found on the beach at Eastney, a mile from the harbour entrance. Last night Kevin Crillin, of Winchfield Crescent, Leigh Park, near Portsmouth, was being treated for exposure.

Ballet official on forgery charge

Anthony Barlow, aged 40, a former press officer for the London Festival Ballet, was charged yesterday with forging the company's cheques, with a total value of about £5,000.

Mr Barlow, of Rosensau Road, Battersea, who started working for the company in 1974, was ordered to surrender his passport to police and provide two sureties of £2,500 each. The charges relate to dates between June, 1979, and February, 1981.

Palace 'prayer meetings'

One of the Queen's stewards held regular prayer meetings in Buckingham Palace and in the royal yacht Britannia, Mr Paul Kidd claims in a magazine article. He says he also preached to Government ministers who visited the palace.

Mr Kidd, aged 28, now works as an operating theatre technician in the Manchester area, and lives at Ashton-under-Lyne. He has broken royal protocol by writing about his service in *Picture*, the newspaper of Dr Billy Graham.

Tuck shop wins award

The tuck shop at Hereford Cathedral School has won a conservation award after boys and masters helped in a £14,000 restoration project for the sixteenth-century building, using pews and a staircase from the cathedral.

Vicar is accused

The Rev William Cecil Heatley, aged 42, of Clyde Road, Sandstead, south London, was remanded on bail by Groydon magistrates yesterday accused of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Mr John Mallerder on January 30. Mr Heatley is vicar of St Anthony's Church, Sandstead.



For nearly 3 years this large house in Woking has been run as a residential home for active retired people.

So successful has it been that Help the Aged have decided to extend the property within its 6 acres of gardens, so that many other elderly people can be accommodated.

Work is now under way to build 20 1/2-bedroom flats and 12 large bedsitting units — each with its own bathroom, toilet and kitchen facilities and, thinking ahead, Help the Aged plan to add extra care facilities in the future.

The superb generosity of the donor of this house and the magnificent help of all our supporters has helped to produce an establishment in which generations of elderly people will live and enjoy.

Many more such houses are needed throughout the country so please ask us about our Gifted Houses scheme. We also need funds to equip and maintain these properties so that elderly people in need can live the rest of their lives with care and dignity.

HELP YOURSELF BY GIVING TO OTHERS

Through Help the Aged's Gifted House Scheme owners who give their homes to the Charity will be provided with private accommodation, free of all rates, rent, and maintenance bills for the rest of their lives. Please send for details.

Help the Aged

Room T6C, 32 Dover Street, London, W1A 2AP.

Reagan rethinks plans to cut nuclear arms

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 25

The Reagan Administration is working on a radical proposal for substantial reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, according to American officials. The aim would be to "reduce the aggregate destructive capability of strategic nuclear arsenals in a militarily significant way".

Among options being considered are possible direct limitations on the number of nuclear warheads, missile "throw-weight" (lifting power) and guidance systems accuracy.

The officials emphasized that the Administration also wanted any new treaty to include adequate verification measures, because it was essential the two sides should have confidence that neither was cheating.

Any such plan would be presented at strategic arms reduction talks (Start) between the two super powers. But the officials cautioned that the opening of these negotiations depended on an improvement in East-West relations.

The Start process could not be insulated from other international events, officials said. "The continuing repression of the Polish people in which the Soviet responsibility is clear — obviously constitutes a major setback for East-West relations", they said, therefore it was not appropriate in the present circumstances to discuss a date for beginning Start.

Although the United States does not expect early strategic arms talks because of the Polish crisis, officials are preparing themselves for the time when negotiations with Moscow can resume.

What the United States would hope to achieve would be a treaty that would "enhance the security of both the superpowers by reducing the instability and unpredictability of the strategic nuclear balance".

Under the 1972 Salt 1 treaty and the 1974 Vladivostok agreement, ceilings were placed on the number of long-range bombers and strategic missile launch pads each side could have. But there were no limits set on the number of warheads each missile could carry.

The Salt 2 treaty of 1979 limited each side to 2,400 inter-continental ballistic missiles and bombers each and also placed some limits on multiple warheads. But that treaty was not ratified by the United States Senate because of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

It would have limited land-based missiles on each side to a maximum of 10 warheads apiece. However, the Soviet SS18 missile is capable of carrying up to 30 warheads, whereas the proposed new American MX missile will only carry around 10.

According to official American figures, at the beginning of last year the United States had 1,630 land- and sea-based missiles com-

Steelmen step up 'dead town' strikes

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 25

For the second day running, the steel industry in Belgium was paralysed today by strikes as angry workers took to the streets and the railway lines to emphasize their concern about the Government's economic programme.

Clusfroid, the second French-speaking city of Belgium, was completely halted and trains in and out of Namur were blocked. Liège was only slightly more active than on the previous day when a "dead town" tactic was ordered by the unions.

The reaction in French-speaking Wallonia is in response to the austerity measures declared by the Government last weekend with the devaluation of the Belgian franc and to the threat hanging over the entire Belgian steel industry.

Some 100,000 jobs in Wallonia depend directly or indirectly on the steel industry in the area.

This concern was evident earlier in the month when steelworkers demonstrated in Brussels to save their jobs and were involved in violent incidents with mounted police.

The Government promise that there will be a three-month total price freeze, save for some very deserving special cases. Only in these circumstances will the unions be likely to accept the three-month wage freeze which has now been imposed.



Hitting the top note

Sheena Easton, the Scottish rock singer with her Grammy award in Los Angeles. Miss Easton, aged 22, was judged best recording artist of the year for *Morning Train* and *For Your Eyes Only*.

Yoko Ono, struggling to hold back tears, was given a standing ovation when she and her late husband, John Lennon, won an award

for their record album, *Double Fantasy*.

Lena Horne, won two Grammys for best female vocal performance and for best cast show album.

Other winners included Police the British rock group, Dolly Parton, the country and western singer, and Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Uproar at trial of 'Islamic Guards'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Feb 25

The trial of five men charged with attempting to assassinate Mr Shampour Bakhtiar, the former Iranian Prime Minister, in July, 1980, nearly broke up in confusion today.

The men, belonging to a group of Pasdaran (Guardians of the Islamic Revolution) who were in the dock at Nanterre, Paris, suburb, rejected the right of French justice to try them, and refused to be defended by French counsel.

Mr Bakhtiar, who has been living in exile in France since 1979, narrowly escaped assassination when three men, posing as journalists, tried to break into his flat in Neuilly. They were stopped by the strong police guard.

In the shooting which broke out, one police officer was killed, and two were injured.

The court building and its precincts were cordoned off by 500 gendarmes and riot police with police dogs.

Only two people were in the public gallery, a cousin of Mr Bakhtiar, and the wife of the alleged leader of the group, Mr Anis Naccache, a Lebanese and member of the Palestinian Fatah organization.

As they were led into the court, the defendants shouted: "Death to the traitors", and "Down with the United States, down with Russia, down with Mitterrand".

When three women were drawn by lot to sit on the jury, Mr Naccache jumped up shouting, "Islam forbids women to be judges. We reject all women."

Elysée summit irons over the differences

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 25

President Mitterrand and West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, today emphasized the close ties between their countries in the face of the grave threat from the revived tension between East and West, and the world economic crisis.

Hence the deliberate solemnity of the thirty-ninth Franco-German summit which ended here today, and of a final declaration, which emphasizes the similarity of their analysis of these and other world problems, even if they have different views on their solution.

Their standpoints are practically identical on the condemnation of the repression in Poland taken "under pressure and with the assistance of the Soviet Union", on the need to restore the balance of forces in Europe through the stationing of American nuclear weapons, and simultaneously to pursue talks on arms limitation; and on the "vital strengthening of the solidarity between the United States and the other members of the Atlantic Alliance."

They both opposed any "transfer of the East-West conflict to the Third World", and the importance of "the development to the South in the spirit of non-alignment," which was enshrined in the Cancun declaration last summer. But at their press conference after the talks it was quite clear from the Chancellor's silence on the subject that he has strong misgivings about French assistance to "liberation movements" in Central America.

They also agreed on "the very grave consequences" for European economies of high United States interest rates, and on their "determination to do something about it" in agreement with their partners in the Community.

However the Bonn Government is obviously not prepared to go as far as France on recommending to them European counter-measures if their representations to Washington remain unheeded.

Their approach to the difficulties in the EEC is also different: they are at one in the need to overcome them "in a spirit of solidarity". But according to German sources, if the Bonn Government agrees to defend Community institutions, it does not wholly endorse the French standpoint on agricultural prices, and does not want to get involved in the controversy between Paris and London on the Community budget.

Manchester: Mr Christopher Tugendhat, a vice-president of the EEC Commission, to-night expressed strong anxiety about Europe's relations with America. (Denis Taylor writes). He said that if the Community failed to rise to the international challenges with which it was confronted, it "will I fear, sink into the same limbo of lingering irrelevance as the League of Nations".

In a speech here he said: "I am particularly worried about the effects of Europe's disunity and inability to respond to crises on our relations with the United States".

Pan Am

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NEW YORK PAI

13:30

16:05

Experience tells you to take the one with most experience.

It's no coincidence that the most convenient daily flight from London Heathrow to New York carries our name.

Put it down to experience.

We've learned that you may want that early meeting in your office before setting off for the airport.

And we've learned that you want to arrive at your New York hotel in good time for a leisurely dinner and an early night. So you'll wake up bright eyed and bushy tailed, set to sparkle at next morning's meeting.

We've learned, because we're old hands at the business of business travel.

Long ago we started the whole concept of in-flight service by employing flight

attendants and serving meals aloft, and experience has kept us in the lead ever since.

That's why our Sleeperette® Service in First Class gives you a seat that stretches right out along with you when you really want to relax. And why our new Clipper® Class seats are even wider and come in pairs, not threes, so you're always near to the aisle.

It's our wealth of experience that's taught us to offer you a leisurely meal with a choice of fine entrées and good wines, along with complimentary cocktails and a movie that won't cost you a penny extra to watch.

It's experience that counts every time. And that's where we stand head and shoulders above everyone in the airline business.

Because nobody's been in Business longer, and it shows.

PAN AM

Words that Koch may have to eat

New York, Feb 25. — Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York, calls Mr Richard Nixon a "phony", Mr Spiro Agnew "spittle" and Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, a "schmuck" in an interview with *Playboy*.

The outspoken mayor, who announced on Monday that he is running for Governor, also says Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, are terrible.

Observers predicted that some of his derogatory comments about the constituency he now seeks — the rest of New York State — would return to haunt him.

In the interview, conducted last December, Mr Koch said he would never be "a Governor because it was a terrible position" and called the president of the city council, Mr Carol Bellamy, who would succeed him as mayor should he be elected governor, a "pain in the ass".

Yesterday the mayor sought to take the edge off his comments by asserting he intended them as jokes. But he acknowledged they were embarrassing. — Reuters.

Plea to Greek troops

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Feb 25

The Greek military leadership and some 250 senior officers of the Athens garrison today heard Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, outline his National Government's strategy, and urge them to keep politics out of the barracks.

In this first contact between Mr Papandreu, who is also Minister of Defence, and the commanders of military units deployed in the vicinity of the capital, the Prime Minister explained why he was pressing NATO to grant Greece guarantees against an attack from Turkey.

Indonesia's sea claim supported

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 25

Malaysia today recognized Indonesia's controversial "archipelagic principle" setting what could become a precedent for the forthcoming law of the sea negotiations.

Under the principle, Indonesia lays claim to all the waters enclosed within lines drawn from the outermost points of its more than 13,000 islands, covering some 600,000 square miles of ocean.

Malayan recognition of the claim is included in a maritime agreement signed today in Jakarta. It relates particularly to the waters of the South China Sea and those between peninsular and East Malaysia.

Malaysia recognizes Indonesia's exclusive territorial and economic rights over the waters under the archipelagic principle sought for the past two decades by Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister. In turn, Indonesia recognizes Malaysia's traditional fishing rights and rights of free passage for the laying of undersea cables.

"We are the only Nato country facing a threat from another ally on the east," he said. "This unique position explains why within the framework of the alliance, we are demanding guarantees for our frontiers as well as military aid on a scale that would maintain the equilibrium in the Aegean."

In order to consolidate its independence even within the alliance, Greece should develop other sources of armaments and build up the domestic arms industry, he said. The Greek armed forces are 90 per cent American equipped.

ANOTHER FIRST.

TIME: 10.35 a.m.
DATE: February 19, 1982
PLACE: Renton, Washington
EVENT: 757 Inaugural Flight

The take-off was perfect. The flight was smooth and noticeably quiet. The landing: precise.

The 757 maiden flight marks another major step into the fuel-efficient era.

For instance, one 757 will save enough fuel in a single year to fly 186 people around the world 12 times.

Airlines throughout the world placed orders for 136 Boeing 757s, with options on another 71 jetliners, even before No. 1 ever left the ground.

These days, Boeing has a habit of being first.

Just five months ago the Boeing 767, another fuel-efficient jetliner, made its inaugural flight. It is scheduled to go into commercial service in September. In early 1983, after rigid certification tests, the 757 will begin to fly passengers.

No other manufacturer has ever made such an enormous investment at one time in engineering skill, people-hours and money.

Soon this commitment will begin to pay off for airlines in new fuel economies.

In addition, it will mean consumers will continue to enjoy flying as one of the world's best travel values.

BOEING
Getting people together.



NEWS IN SUMMARY
Bourguiba ultimatum to Gaddafi
Tunisia's President Bourguiba has issued an ultimatum to Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, demanding that the two countries merge their armed forces and unite the continent. Bourguiba said the document, which he said would be signed by the two leaders, was a precondition for any talks on the island of Sicily. He said the document was a precondition for any talks on the island of Sicily. He said the document was a precondition for any talks on the island of Sicily.

Seoul presses peace talks
South Korea's President Chun Doo-hwan has urged North Korea to return to the negotiating table. He said the only way to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula was through dialogue. He said the only way to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula was through dialogue. He said the only way to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula was through dialogue.

...to ... chief

Israel accuses Western media of distortion

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 25

The Israeli Government has embarked on a campaign designed to show up alleged double standards by western news organizations in their reporting of events in Israel and the occupied territories as opposed to the Arab world, particularly Lebanon and Syria.

The campaign appears to have been prompted by the recent showing in America of an ABC documentary *Under the Israeli Thumb* highly critical of Israeli policy in the occupied West Bank. Tonight the documentary was reshown by Jordan television, which is widely watched by viewers in Israel and the West Bank.

The drive began earlier this month with an interview given by the director of the government press office, Mr Ze'ev Chafetz. The whole issue has now been referred for discussion by the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee after a sparsely attended parliamentary debate this week.

The number of newspapers, broadcasting companies and news agencies, including the BBC, Reuters, The New York Times and the Washington Post, have been accused of deliberately suppressing news about intimidation of their correspondents in Lebanon by Palestinians or Syrians.

Israeli officials have also hinted that the critical ABC documentary could be directly attributed to the brutal murder last year of Mr Sa'ad

To add to the Israeli suspicions, The New York Times, whose Jerusalem correspondent, Mr David Shipley, conducted the original interview with Mr Chafetz — omitted reference to the abduction of two of its own correspondents in Lebanon when it carried the interview, which had already been reported in full by the International Herald Tribune.

The omission has now been rectified, and sections of a report on the abduction by Mr John Kifner, the paper's Beirut correspondent, was quoted in the Knesset debate.

Similarly the Israelis have angrily accused the BBC of deliberately refusing to carry a report by its Jerusalem correspondent, Mr Michael Elkins, about the government allegations. According to the original Israeli version, two BBC correspondents in Beirut, Mr Tim Llewellyn and Mr Jim Muir, were hurriedly switched to a new base in Cyprus in the summer of 1980 after Syrian threats had been passed on to London via Damascus.

The switch followed soon after Mr Llewellyn had reported on an assassination attempt against President Assad of Syria.

Dr Elihu Ben-Elissar, the chairman of the foreign affairs and defence committee, has responded enthusiastically to the Government's allegations, which have reinforced local suspicions that much of the world's media is biased against Israel.

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Troops cut off Druze villages in Golan

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, Feb 25

Four Druze Arab villages on the Golan Heights were sealed off by troops at dawn today as the Israelis stepped up efforts to break the 12-day old general strike by the 12,500-strong community against the annexation of the Syrian territory.

At the same time, lawyers have appealed to the Amnesty International on behalf of five leading members of the Muslim sect who were placed under detention this month.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the decision to seal off the villages was taken for security reasons. Israeli radio later said it had also been made to prevent Israeli left-wingers from entering the villages to encourage the strikers and provide supplies.

None of the villagers, except the few still prepared to go to work in Israel, are allowed to leave. Neither can journalists enter the area.

Pro-Israeli Druzes on the Golan have been shunned by the rest of their community. Today the *Jerusalem Post* reported that one of the most prominent pro-Israeli Golan Arabs, Mr Salim Abu Saleh, had become a labourer on a Jewish settlement after the Druzes boycotted his insurance agency.

The paper also said an opinion poll showed that 66 per cent of Israelis approved the Golan annexation and 27 per cent opposed it.

Coup plot trial

Spain's two worlds square up

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 25

A line of tiled roof hunches, looking amazingly like the caravans in India left behind by the British Army, is the first thing you notice as you reach the heavily guarded military area six miles south-west of here where Spain's coup plot trial is now proceeding.

The well-painted officers' houses with their neat gardens provide a stark contrast with the seedy flat blocks on the outskirts of Madrid rushed up during the boom years of Franco. You have entered another world.

Everything at the court martial emphasizes this sense of isolation, this cantonment world. It begins with the rigid body searches. Civil Guards took away the radio I had brought.

No wonder there is tension between this old-fashioned cantonment world and the 50 or so Spanish journalists covering the trial. With only about 10 members of the public admitted daily, the journalists represent the forces of a younger, open society.

The hot stage of the court martial — the replies in cross-examination of the accused and the threatened revelations of the defence counsel — has yet to be reached, but already the danger signs are up for the civilian press.

Senior Flo Cabanillas, the Justice Minister, refused to intervene when asked by MP's about the expulsion of Señor Pedro Ramirez, the 29-



Señor Ramirez, Editor of Diario 16

expelled from court for publishing allegations on the anniversary of the coup about the conduct in Parliament on the night of the coup of one of the accused.

As *El País*, the independent Madrid daily, surmised it may have been unthinkable that Lieutenant-General Luis Alvarez Rodriguez, the 65-year-old president of the Supreme Council of Military

Justice, should have ordered three generals to appear handcuffed in court, accompanied by 29 other officers, after they had all refused to appear in protest over the newspaper allegations.

The state television broadcast on the coup anniversary night the world-famous shots of the seizure of Parliament and the demand, two days later, of Señor Landelino Lavilla, speaker of the Lower House, for all responsible for the outrage to be brought to account.

Lieut-Colonel Antonio Tejero, who led the Civil Guard into Parliament, looks well at the trial. He was heard as he left one session exultantly commenting how he regretted not hitting

Lieut-General Gutierrez Melado, then deputy Prime Minister, with his pistol butt.

Colonel Tejero has sought to involve Queen Sofia, the daughter of the late King Paul and Queen Frederica of the Hellenes, as well as King Juan Carlos, the written Queen Sofia allegedly told General Alfonso Armada at a Pyrenean skiing resort several weeks before the coup attempt. "You are the only one, Alfonso, who can save us".

Two leading members of the ruling Centre Democratic Party, contacted between sittings, vigorously defended the King and Queen from the charges. "You are the only one, Alfonso, who can save us".

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Failure by Shamir on two big issues

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Feb 25

Egypt and Israel, ending three days of negotiations today, announced some progress, but failed to make headway on two issues important to Israel — a date for President Mubarak's proposed visit and a declaration of principles for Palestinian

Mr Mubarak's visit is symbolically important to Israel as an indication, Israeli diplomatic sources say, that Egypt will remain friendly after the scheduled withdrawal from Sinai on April

The Israeli Government is also eager to sign the declaration of principles while it still sees the presence of its troops as potential leverage in the negotiations, these sources indicate.

But after a 75-minute meeting with Mr Mubarak, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, told reporters that although he was sure the visit would take place, the "timing and details

by Michael Pintz-Duschinsky

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David Watt

The Labour Party's phoney peace

The pacific "spirit of Bishop's Stortford" is still alleged to brood benignly over the Labour Party — and no doubt it is faintly plausible to claim that the "draw" between left and right at Wednesday's meeting of the party's national executive committee (one Militant in, one out for the time being) represents a balanced conclusion in the Bishop's Stortford mould. But there is a difference between a "draw" and a "truce", as the ferocity and bad temper that apparently characterized the NEC debate made plain.

The truth is that the famous Bishop's Stortford agreement of seven weeks ago was a confidence trick. The trade unions and the parliamentary leadership were desperately anxious to persuade themselves, and anyone else who would listen, that the party bickering would end in the interests of electoral respectability for the duration of this Parliament.

But the flaw in the strategy was that while the high-contracting parties could determine (up to a limited point) what happened in their own backyards, they could not govern events in the first place. Unless the entire sociology of Britain changes in a wholly unpredictable and implausible fashion, it is hard to see why Labour's troubles should not continue to accumulate.

There is no particular mystery about what has been going on — endless commentators, to say nothing of a vast academic

literature, have charted the downward path. The argument starts with the decline of the class system in this country and the rise of television (separate, but not entirely disconnected phenomena). The number of old-style, dyed-in-the-wool manual workers, even in the north, who vote Labour out of slavish loyalty is dwindling, and those that exist are not going to turn out to moribundly lengthy party meetings on rainy nights in frosty Labour committee rooms when they could be at home watching *Coronation Street*.

They have therefore abdicated power to their children and grandchildren, who tend to have been educated at universities and polytechnics, have (or, with unemployment at three million, more likely had, or aspired to) jobs in the public sector, were turned into radicals in the late 1960s and into activists by the frustrations of the 1970s and, unlike their parents, interpret the word "socialism" in terms of Marx rather than Owen and Morris.

They think of themselves as workers, and talk about "working-class consciousness", but this is often mere nostalgia at a psychological level, and at a political level simply code-word in the language of revolution.

Of course this picture is a gross oversimplification of a very complicated reality. "Upward mobility" in the social sense does not invariably lead to radical activism; there are huge regional variations, with many local parties still dominated by moderates, and others, for that matter, still in the grip of the most conservative trade union machines. But the trade remains, as many opinion polls show, that constituency delegates to recent Labour Party conferences have been overwhelmingly in the middle-class social and economic brackets and

(as the votes have amply demonstrated) predominantly left-wing in orientation.

Nothing at present seems likely to reverse this trend except a willingness on the part of the present parliamentary leadership and the trade unions to redraw the party rules so as (a) to mobilize anti-left support in the constituencies and (b) to purge the party of all Marxist sub-groups. These are precisely the steps they will not or cannot take.

In the case of the constituencies it is not enough, for instance, merely to reverse the conference decision which imposes reselection on MPs for every general election. The long-term slide to the left would still continue under the influences just described. What is required is a selection procedure which implicates the "sleeping" moderates who never turn up to meetings — in other words, a limited version of an American primary election in which all members of the local party are entitled to vote. There is not the slightest chance that such a reform will be proposed, let alone adopted, because it would undermine the privileged position of the trade unions in the appointment of delegates to selection conferences (and which in effect turns a number of constituencies into rotten boroughs).

Similarly, in the case of the ideological challenge, it is no use proscribing the Militant Tendency (although that would certainly be a step forward). Its members would soon regroup and reappear in the same places, with the same aims and opinions but in a slightly different guise. The real need is to investigate all the existing "parties within the party" (the Rank and File Coordinating Committee, the London Labour Briefing, and all the rest) and declare that they are in contravention of Clause 2 of the party constitution; the NEC

should then revive the party's blacklist of proscribed organizations which was fatally abolished as part of Mr Wilson's liberalization package in 1968.

But here again, there is no prospect whatever of this being done. It is too late. There are no longer the votes in the party conference to support it. And in any case Mr Foot has set his face against a witch-hunt, partly for good liberal reasons, but partly to avoid a flaming row between now and the next general election.

This is where the party's dilemma is so clearly exposed. If Mr Foot decides to assert himself and then successfully carries his wishes through with the help of his wafer-thin (and distinctly unreliable) majority on the present NEC, and makes even the most timid and tentative step that actually harms the hard left, all hell will break loose; Mr Benn will have a field day and Labour will not have a prayer at the polls.

If, on the other hand, he keeps mum and lets the left-wing strategy (of intimidating the Parliamentary Labour Party in the short run and transforming its composition in the long) proceed on its inexorable course, then he is damned by another route. First, his support, such as it is, in the Commons would be badly eroded after the next election. More immediately, however, he cannot expect the right wing to stay silent while the left is allowed to go on picking it off. There will be a flaming row that way, as well; and it is rapidly gaining in volume and intensity. Whether it would harm the Labour Party more at the polls than the other sort of row is a moot point. There cannot be much in it, and though it has become fashionable in the last month or so to predict a steady Labour revival from now on, I would not put much money on it.

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Reporter Sally Field in Absence of Malice: is this really low the press works?

Has the prying reporter's halo slipped?

The world's press was buoyed up by *The Washington Post's* exposure of Watergate. But lately American journalism has increased scepticism about the press by publishing false stories (in no less than *The Washington Post* and, last week, *The New York Times*). Now, just as Watergate became legend through the film *All the President's Men*, the anti-press movement is reinforced by a new film, *Absence of Malice*. Is the tide turning? And is it a fair picture anyway?

In *Absence of Malice*, which opened in London yesterday, Sally Field, playing Megan Carter, a reporter for *The Miami Standard*, is none of these things: above everything else she is a fool, or rather a dupe, who makes a wrong move in almost every frame of the movie. She intends no evil but succeeds, unwittingly and effortlessly, in creating havoc for innocent citizens.

In America the film is reported to be doing "nice business" and the question is asked whether this is because it has tapped a public anger at the incursions, mistakes, over simplifications and vendettas of reporters and their editors, whether the Watergate scandal has come full circle so that the investigative journalist, once a national hero, is now the villain of the piece.

The world premiere of *Absence of Malice*, held in Washington, was given as a benefit for the Committee for Freedom of the Press, an organization set up to fight anti-press moves by the United States Government. Given that the film's press stance is so curious but the premiere was attended by several hundred of the capital's top journalists and netted the committee more than \$50,000. Most of the journalists reported that they had enjoyed the movie, "as entertainment and as a love story". But they were adamant and unanimous that the standards of journalism in the film are "wretched" and that the Sally Field mistake makes elementary mistakes in the words of one of them "as entertainment and as a love story".

The film opens just after a prominent Miami union leader has disappeared without trace. The head of the organized crime task force, getting nowhere in his investigation, thinks up a ruse to push information out of the underworld. Michael Gallagher, played by Paul Newman, is the fall-guy: his father and uncle are known to have been in the Mafia and the police chief thinks Gallagher has friends in the right (ie, wrong) places. So the police chief opens a (bogus) investigation into him.

Megan Carter is deliberately tipped off that the police have someone in their sights regarding the union leader's disappearance and she visits the police chief in his office. All he offers is a snappy "no comment" but then leaves her in his office, on a pre-arranged excuse, with the film on Gallagher com-

veniently on view. Like a good (good?) newsound, Carter reads it. She and her editor are aware that the story has been "leaked" to them but they do not appear to question the motives of the police and, on the basis of the "file" alone, the *Standard* runs a front-page article saying that Gallagher is a suspect in the murder investigation. This is exactly what the police chief

wanted. In Britain, of course, our stricter Libel and Contempt of Court laws would prevent this kind of article, but not in the United States. We learn later in the film that Gallagher is entirely innocent but before Megan Carter and her editors are convinced, she has made more errors, lied to her sources, slept with Gallagher and indirectly caused the suicide of a friend of his, also entirely innocent. There can be no doubt about the film's anti-press line.

Carl Bernstein, half of the Washington Post's famous duo that broke the Watergate scandal and now a producer correspondent with the American Broadcasting Company, enjoyed the film, and thought it was on the right track in drawing attention to the fact that newspapers too often do not make enough checks. But he thinks that every character in the film would be fired from a real newspaper, and the lawyer disbarred.

Ben Bradlee, editor of *The Washington Post*, agrees with Bernstein. "If you are leaked something, you are examined the motives or the person or persons doing the leaking. I like to think that the leak in *Absence* would not have passed our test. And that it is certainly the feeling that in the three recent cases of fabricated stories — Janet Cooke's eight-year-old heroin 'addict' in *The Washington Post*, which won a Pulitzer Prize, Michael Daily's exclusive in the *New York Daily News* about a gun-toting British soldier in Northern Ireland, and Christopher Jones's trip with the Khmer Rouge published in the *New York Times* — there was in each case enough internal inconsistency for editors to have been made suspicious.

Bob Woodward, the other half of the Washington Post's Watergate duo and now one of the paper's editors, does not sense that public hostility to the press is any more widespread now than it was, 10 years ago. "The journalism schools are still full to overflowing... no,

it really had time was in the early seventies just before Watergate when Spiro Agnew was Vice President and went around talking about the nativity nabobs of negativity."

Others disagree sharply with Woodward and say there is a backlash against — well, intrusive if not investigative journalism. Bradlee is one such. "America definitely has a preoccupation with the press right now, as a result of Watergate, I think. I feel this preoccupation here. Everything we do is under a special microscope. You know how we used to study Hamlet in high school, scrutinizing it for five months, trying to work out if his brother-in-law was gay?"

What figures there are would seem to support the motion that newspapers are indeed under threat. Despite America's lesser libel and contempt laws, especially in regard to "public figures", libel actions against newspapers have proliferated in recent years. Besides the much-publicised seven-figure sum granted to J. Edgar Hoover for a *National Inquirer* article about her, there have been other even later awards made against *Parade*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Daily Oklahoman* and the *Lake Charles (Louisiana) American Press*. As for Klaw, says, this is not just to a change in the law but to a change in the fact of the matter, which settle the level of awards, are reflecting the mood of the American people.

The managing editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* says that the sending of threatening letters has proliferated in the last few years, "often for very frivolous reasons but which demand explosive replies (only 10 out of 136 libel suits against the media are successful, according to one study). At *Time Inc.* they have about 10 libel suits pending at any one time and the Gannett newspaper chain reports a libel suit about every 10 days. *Parade*, a colour magazine inserted in 136 Sunday newspapers, as recently decided to introduce regular libel seminars for staff.

Pace Bob Woodward, there does seem to be a fair fertile ground for *Absence of Malice* to take root in. An old Montagu unfortunately some papers, like *Time Inc.* are fighting it and here, for instance, begun countering individuals and organizations who are believed to have sued them maliciously. At this point you are no doubt thinking that we are treating *Absence of Malice* like some of the Washington heavies, and as Bradlee says, spending as much time on it as schools devote to *Hamlet*. Let's give the last word to Pollack. "Heck, this isn't a documentary, a documentary would have been different. This is fiction wrapped around a newspaper. And a love story."

Peter Watson

Why Nicosia is so glad to see Papandreou

When Mr Andreas Papandreou arrives in Cyprus tomorrow he will be the first Greek Prime Minister ever to visit the island. Almost certainly he will be given a warm welcome by the Greek Cypriot population such as no one has had since Makarios returned from his second exile, in December 1974.

This is not because Greek Cypriots are still hankering after the dream of Enosis with Greece, as Turkish Cypriots are prone to assert. That was already no more than a dream, or a slogan, for most Greek Cypriots even before the coup of 1974 and the night-mare that followed.

No, Greek Cypriots will welcome Papandreou because they believe that under him Greece is for the first time giving them whole-hearted support in their struggle to end the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus and to restore the unity and independence of the Cyprus republic. For him, it seems, the Cyprus issue has a much higher priority than for his Conservative predecessors, who were more interested in getting Greece into the EEC and re-integrating her forces with NATO.

But how can Papandreou help the Cypriots in practice? I put that question to Greek Cypriot leaders of various factions during a visit last month. None of them, I found, was under the illusion that northern Cyprus can be "liberated" from the Turks by force, with or without Greek help. Many do consider, however, that it is important to strengthen their defences so that they can resist any Turkish attempt to

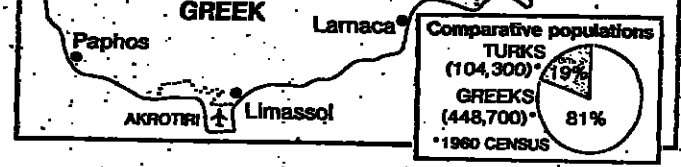
seize the remainder of the island, at least to enough for the international community to react and impose a ceasefire.

Essentially, what Greek Cypriots are expecting from Papandreou is that he will make enough of a nuisance of himself in NATO to persuade other Nato countries, and particularly the United States, to put pressure on Turkey to alter her policy on Cyprus. In vain does one point out that in the last resort, Turkey is more vital to NATO strategy than Greece. The Cypriot reply is that NATO will not want, or need, to lose either Turkey, they say, especially under its present military regime, is wholly dependent on the United States, and under sufficient pressure would do as it is told.

Yet independent observers of the conflict, while agreeing that further concessions will be needed on the Turkish side if a solution is to be reached, and that international pressure has a part to play in producing these, fear that the Greek Cypriots' advent may actually make a solution less likely by enabling the Greek Cypriots to hide from themselves the fact that greater flexibility is needed on their side too.

The Greek Cypriots indirectly confirm this when they complain that previous Greek governments allowed themselves to be used as an instrument for Greek Cypriot concessions, and rejoice that Papandreou seems unlikely to play that role.

It seems, however, that Mr Papandreou, while not ceasing his scepticism about the chance of reaching a



Cyprus: a brief chronology

1571 Turkish conquest
1578 Turkey cedes Cyprus to Britain
1878-29 Greek Cypriot struggle for enosis with Greece
1960 Cyprus becomes independent republic
1963-64 Makarios amends constitution: Turkish Cypriots withdraw into enclaves
1974 Greek-officered National Guard overthrows Makarios
Turkish intervenes and occupies northern Cyprus
Greek Cypriots flee to south; Turkish Cypriots to north
Makarios returns
1975 Turkish Cypriots proclaim "federated state"
1977 Makarios and Denktash agree on guidelines for federal solution
Makarios dies
1980-82 Renewed intercommunal talks make very slow progress

solution through the intercommunal talks, is being careful to avoid any action which would enable the Turks to claim that he had sabotaged the talks. Last week he unexpectedly summoned President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus to

to give the intercommunal talks, chaired by the dynamic UN representative Seán P. Haughey, at any rate until April or May to produce real progress towards a solution.

As in any difficult negotiations, both sides tend to think that they have already made as many concessions as can reasonably be expected of them, and that now it is up to the other party to respond. The Greek Cypriots stand astonished at their own moderation in accepting the principle of a bi-regional federation, and are unimpressed by the Turkish acceptance of Dr Waldheim's "last October" which included the suggestion that negotiations should start "on the basis of a line drawn so that the area under Greek Cypriot jurisdiction was at least 70 per cent". This was a man a Turkish zone substantially smaller than at present, but still much larger than the

proportion of Turkish Cypriots in the population.

For the moment, attention is focused on the constitutional rather than the territorial aspect of the dispute. Mr Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, insists on what he calls "the full partnership status" in the formation of the new Government, meaning essentially that Greek Cypriots should not be able to use their position as the majority to impose decisions against Turkish Cypriot wishes.

On the Greek Cypriot side, Mr Kyprianou says "This is not an equal partnership" — meaning that while individuals should be equal, he cannot accept the idea of "two separate entities of equal status" since this would mean giving less weight to the vote of the individual Greek Cypriot than to that of his Turkish fellow-citizen.

Nor does Mr Kyprianou accept that the issue is fundamentally one of lack of trust between the two communities, resulting from the bloodshed before as well as during the Turkish invasion. "I don't believe there is a question of trust among the people in the street, among the people," he told me. "If one were to speak of security, he should concern himself with the security of Cyprus in view of the threat from Turkey."

It is very hard to find a Turkish Cypriot, even among those who most fiercely oppose Mr Denktash and are most eager to solve the intercommunal conflict, who would agree that this is the only kind of security to be considered. It is true that the Turkish Cypriots, living in an occupied zone as they do, are not negotiating as completely free agents. But it is also true that they are unlikely to withdraw from the island for Turkish withdrawal as long as Greek Cypriots show so little understanding of the reasons why they welcomed the arrival of Turkish forces in 1974.

Edward Mortimer

THE TIMES DIARY



Shoppers in Holborn today will see the wool pulled before their eyes at a blinding speed. A demonstration of high velocity knitting by Gwen Mattheuman, who wields the fastest

clicking needles known. Mattheuman has been timed at 111 stitches a minute, and in one year knitted 915 jumpers using over 1,000 metres of wool, equivalent to the fleece of 25 sheep. She also recently found time to run up four leg-warmers, 14 scarves, a hat and a trunk cosy for an elephant.

The Peruvians, armed with machetes, staves and birch rods, met in an otherwise deserted, moonlit field outside Lima to do battle with Camerounian sorcerers who, they claimed, were using black magic to prejudice Peru's chances of winning the World Cup in Spain this summer. The captain of the Peruvian squad, a faith-healer called Isidoro Samaniego Dios, reported: "Some of us fainted, others collapsed from exhaustion, but we finally overcame them."

London's orchestras are trying to price the ticket routs out of business. The top price for tickets for a Luciano Pavarotti gala performance for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall on April 13 will be £100. That will apply to boxes in the grand tier and the first six rows in the arena which are, as you might expect, within spitting distance of the stage.

On the other hand, 1,000 seats at £2.50 each are reserved in the seats for students, and the RPO

point out, the top price is less than half the £250 the London Symphony Orchestra is charging for a gala attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The pricey tickets are, of course, quickly selling out.

Open secret

We have intelligence of intelligence. The Y Service of wartime days has its first reunion at the House of Commons on Monday. These are the code-breakers and signal interceptors who kept Churchill's war cabinet informed of German and Italian moves, including Hitler's attack on Russia, long before they happened.

Fifty-eight veterans will attend, including Tom Normanston, Conservative MP for Cheddar. The guest of honour at the celebratory lunch will be Brigadier L.A.W. (Laurie) New, deputy director of military intelligence, who will toast the Y Service. The response will come from Brigadier B. A. H. Parritt, present director of the Intelligence Corps.

The old stagers have amazing stories to tell, our PHSpys says. He hopes to do some useful interception on the day, being disappointed not to have an "Headache Operation" during the war, feeding HQ with intercepted Axis messages from a station in Malta.

Second win

For the second time Mary Lascelles, former vice-principal and now honorary fellow of Somerville College, is a winner of the Rose Mary Crawshaw prize administered by the British Academy.

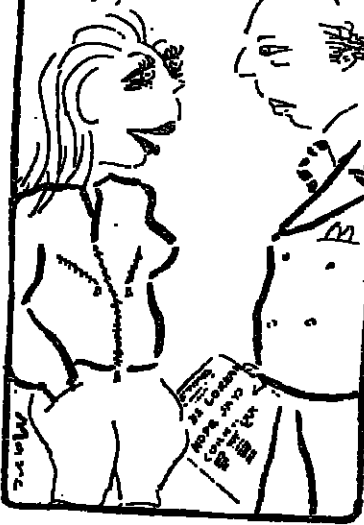
Lascelles previously won the prize for *Jane Austen and her Art* in 1940. This year she shares it with Annabelle Tertulius, the American who edited the letters of Edward Fitzgerald. The prize is for historical or critical work about English literature by women of any nationality, with the proviso that the work is original and not a translation of an original work.

Lascelles, though, returned to the winners' lists with *The Storyteller* retrieves the past, published in 1980 and devoted to the historical fiction of Scott, Stevenson and Kipling.

Yates and Co.

Has Lord Montagu of Beaulieu discovered a hitherto unsuspected work of Dorland Yates, the work of Berry and Co? In *Home James: The Chauffeur in the Golden Age of Motoring*, published earlier this month, Montagu asserts that Yates

Shouldn't it be simpler, Daddy, if the receiver ran the whole country's



helped write the memoirs of Edward VII's chauffeur, C. W. Stammer.

Yet Jack Smithers, whose biography of Dorland Yates is published by Hodder and Stoughton on Monday, warns me not to believe a word of it. In 1913, when Stammer's sensational but otherwise bland *What I know* was published, Cecil William Mercer, who adopted the pen-name Dorland Yates, was still a no-account, out-of-the-way, underemployed barrister with no more than a spectator's knowledge of cars, and only a couple of short stories published in the *Windsor Magazine*.

Smithers adds that if Mercer had known the Palace, even through the tradesmen's entrance, "he was such a social climber that we should never have heard the last of it". Lord Montagu unfortunately cannot yet support his assertion which was based on research by his co-author, Patrick Macgahen, who died last August. But yesterday he commented: "It is not the sort of thing we could possibly make up."

Goodbye sailor

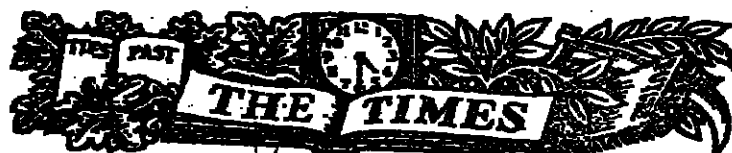
The sale of HMS *Invisible* to Australia will bereave Durban City, the Hall School in Swis Cottage, the Falkland Islands Association, sea cadets in Chorley and the Royal Family. The carrier had built up a formidable list of affiliations. The complete list also includes the British Life Insurance Association, the Light Infantry, Durham School CCF and the Sector Operations Centre, RAF Buchan. The ship is also, of course, the one to which Prince Andrew is attached as helicopter pilot.

Diary Quiz

Our weekly news quiz:
1 Who did workers take up the burden?
2 Who made a long-term mis calculation?
3 Who provides an escape route for a prickly problem?
4 Who poured oil on our troubled waters?
Answers here on Monday.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Grosvenor Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

FOOD IS POWER

Once again the Soviet Union has turned to the West to make good its economic failures. For the third year in a row the Russian harvest has been so bad that the country is being forced to use western supplies to make up the difference. We ought not to let them do so unless they are willing to show greater military restraint around the world.

Reports from the Soviet Union, such as the one carried in *The Times* yesterday suggest that this year's crop in Russia has been even worse than in previous years. The Russians are expected to need about 42 million tonnes of grain of all kinds to feed their people at the abysmally low standard to which they have become accustomed.

Last year's harvest in the West was a good one so we have not yet seen sharp upsurge in prices of a kind which happened in early 1970s. But the seeds on which we should rely to feed ourselves are being, quite literally, eaten up by the Soviet Union's inefficiency of Soviet farming, hat do we get out of this?

For farmers in the American heartland, the grain exporting companies the attractions of obvious. The importance of President Reagan feeling that he can go back on the edge he made during the 1980 election campaign not a grain embargo of a kind which "resident" can impose.

One of the arguments used then against the embargo was that it was sidestepped by other countries, who just sold the grain to the Soviet Union

in place of the American supplies. That argument is much weaker in the face of a Soviet crisis of such greater proportions. The United States has such a stranglehold on the world grain market that the Soviets would not be able to find alternative sources of supply. Nor, if it were effectively policed, could an embargo be evaded on the necessary scale for the Soviets to get round it. The impracticability of argument, always used as the first line of defence by those whose hearts are not in an issue, does not hold water.

Nor does the idea that the Americans are just sticking to contracts which they must honour. The nature of the embargo imposed by governments for political reasons is that they interfere with normal trade. If there is no trade to interfere with, there is no point in the embargo.

There have been two major issues of contention between the west and the Soviet Union over the past two years. They are the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and Soviet intervention in Poland. The western response to both has been feeble and has missed the one sanction that could have had an effect.

It has been fashionable in the past to say that the Soviet Union is always prepared, given the choice, to sacrifice goods from the west if it asked to pay a political price. The record does not show this. If used properly, the trade carrot-and-stick can work with the Russians. It certainly would have its greatest effect if based on the food weapon, for Soviet society has changed enough for the threat of severe food

shortages to make even the Kremlin pause. Most of the grain needed for this year has probably already been bought by the Russians. Their hectic activity in the world's gold and oil markets is a sure sign they have been spending heavily.

Yet one thing we can be sure of is that they will be back again. Central direction and good farming do not go together. The Soviet Union cannot persist with the delusion that they have had luck with their harvests. It is chronic inefficiency in its agricultural sector from which they suffer, and that is not bad luck but bad management, and ruthless over-spending in defence rather than farming.

We ought not to be protecting the Soviet leaders from the consequences of their unwillingness to change from a warfare state to an agrarian one. The tumult on the oil market in the 1970s awakened us to the fact that raw materials are vital strategic weapons. No raw material is as vital as food and those western countries which have been able so easily to feed themselves have been ready to forget that fact.

Constant sales of grain to the Russians are bad for us, because they keep prices here high they are bad for the rest of the world, because countries which have real problems feeding themselves suffer from Russia's self-inflicted socialist wounds; and bad for Russia because they postpone change. The Soviet Union knows perfectly well that its dependence on our food production is a major and constant source of weakness. We should show them that we know that too.

PARENTS HAVE DUTIES TOO

It is piquant that the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the use of the cane or tawse in schools should come in the week that a Toxteth school has been closed because of the violence of nine and 10 year olds. It is the teacher, not the pupils, who have been intimidated in Toxteth — and they are too frequently sink schools in other urban areas. It would be natural therefore to feel some irritation with those who feel that any vestige of discipline is somehow demeaning to the individual, and some sympathy with teachers who have expressed dismay at the difficulties and tensions it may cause. It is to be emphasized, therefore, that the European Court did not find caning to be torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Specifically refused to do so. And it would be quite out of proportion to regard judgment as representing me special indictment of is country as a haven for ill discipline. Parts of Germany and Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most of the United States still practise it.

The judgment was more about the rights of parents than it was about corporal punishment and here the reasoning of the Court is persuasive in the light of the European Treaty on Human Rights. Article 2 says that no one should be denied the right of education and that the State assumes the teaching burden, it must respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching is in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. Parents who have their children taught in conformity with their beliefs and parents who

are against corporal punishment for their children are entitled to have that conviction respected. It is not necessary for the parents to prove if they could, as anti-caning campaigners claim, that it produces fear and resentment which destroy the chance of establishing a relationship of trust and respect and thereby inhibits or ruins the possibility of learning. A great many well-educated parents today emerged from the odd caning or strapping without ill effect. But a conviction against corporal punishment does relate to a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour, namely the integrity of the person, as the Court puts it, and does denote a view which has obtained a level of cogency, seriousness and cohesion, so that it deserves to be regarded with respect as a philosophical conviction. It is more than a mere view on teaching methods or discipline.

The decision, which must be respected for its cogency in law and by reason of our respect for the treaty, nonetheless poses problems. The British Government, which is affected by the ruling just as are all European governments, has argued that it preferred to phase out the use of caning as a consensus developed. That is still a respectable approach. The Lord Advocate Lord MacKay was surely exaggerating, as are the anti-caning campaigners, in arguing that a decision in favour of the two moths would mean segregation of schools into those which administer corporal punishment and those which did not. The concept of beating and non-beating schools is ludicrous. The campaigners argue, therefore, that the Government should simply outlaw caning in schools

altogether on the grounds that it would be unfair to discriminate between parents whose children had opted for caning and parents whose children were opposed. But this argument, too, is not conclusive; it is awkward certainly, but the problem facing the educational authorities is no different from coping with the different religious requirements in schools. (One of the practical difficulties at classroom level is that many teachers find their most troublesome pupils are those whose parents are most insistent that nobody should lay a hand on Johnny, though they may themselves, in anger, do just that. There is only one answer for this which is that the unruly child should be suspended from school or receive restricted privileges so that the parents have to cope with the problem of discipline which must largely have originated within the home.) And children must not be allowed back into school without the parents attending and being reminded of their responsibilities. The teachers' organizations have a case here in arguing that there is a role for counsellors to come between the embattled teacher and the embittered parent.

In accepting that the judgment is sound, one must regret that it might reinforce the secular fashion which denies too often that the individual must not only be responsible for his actions but must accept the penalties of actions that are anti-social or self-indulgent. It is a pity that the European Court could not accompany the right of a parent to protect their children from corporal punishment with a corresponding duty to bring up children in a disciplined enough way to make it more likely that they respect authority at school.

Legal precedence

From Mrs J. K. Gundy
The Reverend John Pollock (February 18) refers to the close association of both Lord Denning and the Pollock family with the lawyers' Christian Fellowship (formerly the Lawyers' Prayer Union). While interest and dispute may continue over legal longevity it is interesting to note that this fellowship can claim an undisturbed 130 years of active existence. Our records contain the following brief but intriguing extracts from the diary of John MacGregor who was one of the founding members:
551, Jan 1. Called to the Bar.
552, Jan 1. First brief as a barrister.
552, Enlisted in Temple Volunteers.
553, Stated Lawyers' Prayer Union.
Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE CUNDY, Secretary,
the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship,
70 Sheen Lane,
East Sheen SW14.
February 2.

Health data protection

From Mr Michael Rigby
Sir, Your otherwise very commendable article on computer applications in the Health Service in your recent supplement on information technology (January 14) failed to identify the limitations to developments caused by the continuing lack of British legislation on data protection. This is of particular concern for computer applications in community health services. Unfortunately, in highlighting the pre-school child health project as an example of confidentiality problems, your feature contained misinformation. The Child Health Computing Committee, a request from the British Medical Association that the computer programs completed in mid-1981 should be scrutinized by independent experts, and meanwhile preparations for trials were suspended. Such analysis showed that the programs were secure within pre-existing proposals for their use, and would change. The British Medical Association has now approved implementation of trials, which should commence in mid-1982. However, lack of statutory confidentiality safeguards re-

mains a major problem. Marcel Berlins, elsewhere in your supplement, emphasized the need for legislation to implement the main recommendations of the Lindop report and to bring Britain into line with the rest of Western Europe. In this context the particular sanctity of medical information needs recognition. It is also surprising that there is no overall National Health Service code of practice relating to confidentiality, though there is an honoured tradition of respecting confidential information. In view of Government support for Information Technology Year it is to be hoped that a suitable data-protection Act will be passed by Parliament during the current session. At the same time, the forthcoming restructuring of the NHS provides opportunity for health authorities to introduce confidentiality and security protocols, recognized in employment contracts, concerning both manual and computer records. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RIGBY,
Vice-Chairman,
Child Health Computing Committee,
Cheshire Area Health Authority,
PO Box 41,
Lightfoot Street,
Chester.

Grylls plan for industry loans

From the Secretary-General of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers
Sir, In his report on Michael Grylls's scheme for reducing industry's borrowing costs (February 19), your reporter, George Brock, correctly says that the banks are reserving their position until they know a great deal more about how the scheme would work. In view of the wider issues raised in the report, may I amplify this point a little?

The Grylls scheme appears designed to reduce companies' annual debt repayments in two distinct ways. One is by allowing interest to be paid on a net-of-tax basis. The other is by extending the term of years for which banks lend. The arguments involved are quite separate.

On the former point, I would only warn against excessive optimism about the amount of new investment that would follow from the ability to pay interest net, in view of all the other factors currently holding industry back.

My main concern, however, is with the suggestion that companies are inhibited from investing, not just by the tax position, but also by the need to repay their bank debt too swiftly. The wildly misleading graph accompanying the report shows "typical repayment terms" of three years and "typical maturities" of five years. The fact that companies can already borrow from their banks for seven, 10 or even 20 years if they so wish is totally overlooked.

The report also gives further grounds to the view that German and Japanese companies are able to borrow for much longer periods than British ones. There is absolutely no justification for this claim. Indeed, Japanese bank lending actually has a much greater short-term content than British bank lending. Of course, Japanese banks often allow their short-term loans to be rolled over, but so do British banks.

If the Government decides that the present tax arrangements are inhibiting industrial investment, then by all means let them be changed. But that decision should be taken on its own merits, and not as the by-product of uninformed criticisms of bank lending practices.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE PRIESTLEY,
The Committee of London Clearing Bankers,
10 Lombard Street, EC3.
February 25.

Immigrant 'confessions'

From Mr Ian Martin
Sir, You report (February 16) that members of the Home Affairs Select Committee were told during their recent visit to Bangladesh of "2,600 cases of fraud last year". It is not clear from your report that these are the figures for "tax confessions" by the numbers of immigrants who have declared to the Inland Revenue for the purpose of claiming tax allowances. The subcommittee appears not to have been told how many of these alleged confessions related to people for whom the tax was not due, although they were not entitled to be admitted.

In giving evidence to the subcommittee we expressed the hope that the MPs would obtain this further information. We are certain that very many of the "tax confessions" relate to falsely declared wives and children for whom no attempt is made to obtain entry, and it would therefore be quite wrong if your readers misunderstood the figures cited to be estimates of immigration fraud rather than tax fraud.

Three other points should be made. First, where false tax claims were made, it was usually 15 to 20 years ago by men who were not in the United Kingdom from a country where the concept of personal income tax was unknown to them and whose illiteracy made them wholly dependent on the advice of others.

Second, child tax allowances of course no longer exist and some of those who made false claims have never earned enough to have benefited from the fraud.

Third, since the entry clearance officers sometimes say that they will admit younger children if older children are admitted to be "bogus", we believe that some parents in their desperation "confess" genuine children to be non-existent.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MARTIN,
General Secretary,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1.
February 18.

Specialized taste

From Mr Nicholas Holgate
Sir, May I congratulate you on your "Great European Eaters"? Too few newspaper articles make me grit my teeth and then burst out laughing, but the labourious fastidiousness of your gourmet does just that. From M. Courtenay's comment (February 13) that English cooking "exists" to Herr von Paczensky's complaint (February 20) that fish dishes are spoilt by "that certain fishy taste", we have a glorious caricature of critical reviewing. I also liked the phrase "a discovery which compels me to actually recommend it". The combination of esoteric delight and split infinitive was most refreshing. Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HOLGATE,
Trinity College,
Cambridge.
February 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TV broadcasting by satellite

From the Chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation
Sir, Television by satellite presents broadcasters with immense opportunities for services to the public. I agree with Lord Aylestone (February 24) that the potential for British industry is very great. If Britain does not enter the field in the very near future, that potential is never likely to be realised.

Up to now, I believe we and the IBA have disagreed about the urgency of our involvement. The BBC has, in the last few years, consistently stated that television broadcasting by satellite was a development of great potential with which we wished to be associated. It is surely not surprising that the BBC should seek to be the forefront in developing new services to the public. We are set up by charter to provide a public service of broadcasting throughout the nation. As methods of broadcasting change it is only proper that we should wish to be involved in extending that public service through new methods of distribution.

The methods of financing such an involvement and the programmes which might be offered are still very much open to discussion. Subscription is, indeed, a new form of financing in this country, but it is well tried elsewhere and we see it as providing a sensible basis for the funding of one BBC satellite channel. It is a method which is likely to be used by other public bodies to enhance the licence income upon which we rely for the bulk of our services.

We believe we could provide a service for two channels, one of which would not be financed by subscription (and would be of far greater value to the public). We have said as much to the Home Office. Financing, complex though it may be, will, of course, be worked out against what Lord Aylestone properly refers to as our "overriding responsibility to the taxpayer" but that responsibility cannot neglect the exciting opportunities presented by new and rapidly changing developments.

I should add that the BBC has never sought a monopoly in this field. If the companies and the IBA seek involvement, they will

no doubt say so to the Home Office; and in turn their plans and proposals will become part of the public debate which has already been going on for some time. But we shall miss golden opportunities for both industry and broadcasting if action is deferred to allow interminable discussion.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HOWARD,
Chairman, BBC,
Broadcasting House, W1.
February 24.

From Mr Norman Collins
Sir, Lord Aylestone, chairman of the IFA from 1967-75 and an elder statesman of broadcasting, as well as of Westminster politics, is to be thanked for his most timely and important letter of February 24. It is indeed a matter of national concern that the use of the two forthcoming satellite broadcast channels should be allocated in the best interests of the public.

The BBC, with its many other unavoidable commitments and obligations, certainly cannot be regarded as a suitable candidate for the operation of both these channels. Even a channel merely of "repeats" which the BBC is advocating is still bound to prove costly and it should be remembered that it is a matter of only weeks since the corporation was expressing its dismay at a new licence fee of £46 against the sum of £50 for which it was so urgently asking.

In face of this, the BBC's proposal that it should operate also a subscription television service on a parallel satellite channel is therefore doubly disturbing. Such a venture would not only require both considerable capital outlay and annual running costs but would introduce a new and highly speculative element into the delicate system of BBC financing.

It is profoundly to be hoped that the full parliamentary debates for which Lord Aylestone is asking should take place before any Government decisions are made.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN COLLINS,
Mulberry House,
Church Row, NW3,
February 25.

Britain's nuclear system

From Air Vice-Marshal S. W. B. Menaul
Sir, In his article in today's issue (February 19) Mr David Watt rightly points out that the question, what kind of nuclear force does Britain need as a replacement for the four Polaris submarines retired in 1980, appears to have divided those responsible for this important decision.

Trident II (D5) will undoubtedly be a very advanced system when it becomes available at the end of this decade, but in my view prohibitively expensive for Britain. We have become mesmerized by the idea that only submarine-launched ballistic missiles, whatever the cost, are an acceptable replacement for our small Polaris force, which is our current contribution to Nato nuclear forces.

Alternatives to Trident include air-launched cruise missiles, submarine, surface ship and ground-launched cruise missiles, air-to-ground stand-off missiles and mobile ground-launched ballistic missiles. Britain is not in a superior position and does not need superpower nuclear weapons. We are part of Europe and a member of the Nato alliance.

Most of our armed forces are committed to the European theatre, so we must decide what nuclear weapons would be most appropriate as a continuing contribution to Nato nuclear forces in the 1990s and beyond. There should be no question of Britain renouncing unilaterally her ability to maintain a nuclear capability.

We must, however, accept the harsh reality that in the unlikely event of the United States abrogating her commitments to Europe we could not on our own deter a Soviet attack on Europe, including these islands, with nuclear/conventional/chemical weapons. If the United States believes that it needs more than

10,000 warheads, deliverable by three different systems, to deter the Soviet Union, to deter Europe or the United States in the 1990s and beyond, by what logic do we conclude that we could deter similar attacks with one Trident submarine (128 warheads) when the consequences of firing just one missile would be suicidal if deterrence should fail?

What Britain needs is a theatre nuclear force capable of attacking military targets in the Soviet Union under a realistic strategy, but with the ability to attack cities and industrial complexes if the situation so demanded. I have recently been discussing this problem with experts in the United States who expressed surprise that Britain should be considering the Trident system at all. In the course of examining alternatives, on the assumption that Britain adopted a realistic nuclear strategy, the most suitable system to replace Polaris would be a modified version of Pershing 2, with three MIRV warheads and an extended range to include Moscow. In effect an equivalent of the Soviet SS-20, but with superior performance.

The Pershing 2 is a mobile ballistic missile with an accuracy greater than any other ballistic missile yet produced. The cost for, say, 50 missiles (150 warheads) has been estimated at about £800m and would be available by 1988. Such a system would have both a strategic and theatre nuclear capability and would be more appropriate to Britain's needs as a contribution to Nato nuclear forces in the 1990s and beyond, and at a price we can afford.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART MENAUL,
The Lodge,
Frensham Vale,
Lower Bourne,
Farnham, Surrey.
February 19.

Opting out of the NHS

From the Chairman of the Independent Hospital Group
Sir, Your first leader (February 5) included certain generalisations worthy of more detailed comment. Two of the many functions performed by the Independent Hospital Group are, first, to act as watchdog over what might otherwise deteriorate into an uncontrolled development of private hospitals and, at all times, to preserve in working partnership between the NHS and the independent sector.

With over 10,000 nurses unemployed it is to be hoped that growth in the number of private hospitals will play a part in generating new job opportunities. To date I have seen little evidence to support the allegation that private hospitals bribe or poach staff from the NHS; the majority of such hospitals are operated by organisations — such as Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust with its 32 acute units — whose policy it is to employ nursing staff on conditions identical to those detailed by the Whitley Council scales.

Your leader ignored the fact that several training facilities already exist in the private sector. For example, NNHT has already this year established a new Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies course for operating-theatre nurses. This course is open to suitable candidates from both the NHS and independent organisations. Encouraged by the present

Government the private sector is constantly examining additional ways in which it can help with the further education of nurses. Finally, on the subject of training, there is often more emotion than logic in any discussion; it is necessary to remember the many people in this country (other than nurses) who are trained at the state's expense.

It is seriously being said that anyone who has been trained by the state must only work for the state.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER ROWELL, Chairman,
The Independent Hospital Group Limited,
Rowell House,
15-17 Essex Street, WC2.
February 8.

Mite of comfort

From Mrs C. E. Johnston
Sir, Through the window envelope of a letter received today I saw "Refund of overpaid rates" and I toyed briefly with the idea of, say, Monte Carlo on the proceeds — very briefly, for the sum concerned turned out to be £0.01. But perhaps it was childish of me not to welcome the news that I may either offset it against next year's rates, or (on completion of an application form and payment of at least 12½p postage, of course) may even have the 1p refunded in full. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE E. JOHNSTON,
18 Titchwell Road,
Wandswoth Common, SW18.
February 20.

Meeting objections to Oxford

From the Principal of Westfield College
Sir, Dr Harry Judge is uncharacteristically unoriginal in his analysis (February 24) of what he calls the "new Oxford snobbery". He can be said to be right in not being said, in its essence, 20 years ago.

May I therefore contribute a thought which, I dare to say, was not in people's minds in, say, the late 1950s but which I believe is now a potent factor in our evolving society and (in particular) in the field of higher education?

Within these two decades the attitudes of young people, and particularly of those who move from school into higher education, have changed to become extraordinarily egalitarian (for the want of a better word). There seems to me to be a positive force nowadays towards a common culture, even towards a common manner of speech and mode of dress. "Class" in the sense understood in my own adolescence is consciously eschewed and circumvented.

It follows that the average sixth-former of the 1980s may not be as interested as we might otherwise expect in an environment which appears (rightly or wrongly) to be outstandingly privileged.

On the whole I regret this, even if I have to accept it. I believe that the excellence for which the university world should strive lies as much in the beauty of its architecture and the layout of its gardens, in the quality of its living conditions, and in the intimacy between staff and students as in pure academic achievement; and if Oxford, or indeed any other place, suffers from trying to be excellent in the large, the more's the pity.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Westfield College (University of London),
Kilderspore Avenue, NW3.
February 24.

Criminal statistics

From Dr Michael Levi
Sir, The Chief Constable of Kent and your readers should be aware of false statistical goods. Since the number of cases of thefts from the person is twice that of robbery in 1980 (report, February 16) it follows that the same numerical increase for thefts from the person and for robbery will produce double the percentage increase for the latter than for the former. Consequently, it seems likely that there has been no change whatever in this type of violence in Avon and Somerset.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the other areas where both robbery and theft from the person increased. This example does indicate that it is essential to use numerical as well as percentage changes in criminal statistics: a point that should be remembered by those who fail to observe that indecent assaults upon females have declined by more than the rise in the number of rapes.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL LEVI,
Lecturer in criminology,
University College, Cardiff,
PO Box 78,
Cardiff.
February 17.

Enduring Latin

From Mr Kenneth Wellesley
Sir, I do not hold it against the author of *Finis Coronat Opus* (February 13) that, while paying tribute to the *International Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, a work far more comprehensive than the modest and excellent *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, though written in the language of erudition, that the great work is only half completed. In hundreds of boot boxes he will find many thousands of fiches awaiting the composition of articles covering the later letters of the alphabet.

No first-class Latin scholar could do himself or herself or international scholarship a greater service than by spending two years in the *Residentia* as a lexicographer; and if youth or age opportunity schemes, academic redundancy payments, learned academies or enlightened benefactors (they still exist) were instrumental in supporting such a scholar in decent poverty, this would be jolly for her, but the comparison is ominous for the rest of us. For while it is indeed true, as Mrs Thatcher told the Engineering Employers' Federation, that the wily mariner "came safely home to harbour," the wily schoolboy knows that his entire fleet and all his men were lost on the voyage.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN CARTWRIGHT,
5 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4.
February 24.

THE ARTS

Television
Mutinous thoughts

The order was given three times. "Pick up your kit. Fall in on the road. Move up to the 46th Division area." But 192 men who had fought at El Alamein and through Sicily sat in a field above Salerno and refused to move. How and why they did so was the subject of this week's Forty Minutes (BBC 2), in which Alan Patient discovered more survivors of this strange episode, mostly Georgians and Scots, than anyone before him. It was a disturbing inquiry in which two old soldiers at least were moved by the bitterness of memory to weeping on film and were unable to continue speaking before being gently pressed to go on.

But it was circumspect and puzzling, too. Many of the men were still wounded and recovering in Tripoli when Alexander's call for reinforcements came through, but why did a call intended for Philippeville in Algeria go to Tripoli at all? Why were they told first that they were being returned to their units and then, once at sea, that they were sailing back to the front line? Was it only because they were not being returned to their units that they refused to do as they were told? After all, hundreds of thousands of men obeyed orders they knew to be foolish, humiliating and even dangerous in both world wars. Was it all Monty's fault? They were Eighth Army men, and Monty had taught them to believe they came from the finest family in the world. The soldiers were all rubbish. But, forty years on, the question nags: was that really all?

The court-martial sat in the Ecole Normale at Constantine; 191 men, the 192nd was an administrative officer who had strayed into the wrong cage — were found guilty of mutiny and sentenced to penal servitude or death. One sergeant was made to read his own capital sentence, and to wait 14 days before it was commuted, as they all were. Vindictively thrown back into the fiercest fighting, many preferred desertion and 10 years' hard labour to near-certain death. They had minds of their own, in short. In a war: unforgivable.

Distinguished elderly lawyers variously told Mr Patient that the men should never have been court-martialled in the first place or that the convicted sergeants should certainly have been shot. Painfulness crowned paradox and paradox pain. The sentences were intended to be exemplary but were classified Top Secret, court-martial proceedings remain inaccessible for 75 years, to protect the accused and their families and British people, indeed, who wish the whole truth to come out.

Michael Ratcliffe



Faces on film: Warren Beatty (above), all charm and toughness; and Timothy Hutton in "Taps" ... a latter-day male equivalent of Lana Turner?

Cinema
Beatty's labour of romantic high-mindedness

Reds (AA)

Empire, Leicester Square

Absence of Malice (A)

Odeon, Leicester Square

Taps (AA)

Plaza 1; Classic, Chelsea

Hallowe'en II (X)

Warner, West End; Classic, Haymarket; Studio, Oxford Street

Warren Beatty's *Reds* is a brave, unlikely and quixotic enterprise. The director-star spent a decade of his own life and somewhere between \$35m and \$60m of his investors' money on the project. It is unlikely, for America at least, to the extent that the hero to whom this big capitalist investment is dedicated was an avowed and unrepentant Communist, who earned the unique distinction for an American of being buried in the Kremlin wall with the heroes of the Soviet Revolution.

John Reed was a Harvard graduate who joined the ranks of American radicals in the years just before the First World War, writing for *The Masses* and involving himself actively in the labour battles of the International Workers of the World. In 1916, in Portland, Oregon, he met Louise Bryant, a dentist who had already achieved local notoriety by her outspoken views on women's rights and sexual freedom. Reed discovered in her "an artist, a rampant joyous individualist, a poet and a revolutionary" and fell in love. Bryant joined him in New York where they lived and worked together and eventually married. Their radical ideas, sexual independence and normal human feelings of jealousy and guilt seem often to have been grotesquely confused. Bryant had a long affair with Eugene O'Neill; Reed had his own lovers. Bryant went to France to cover the war (and maybe to escape from the emotional chaos) and then in August 1917 journeyed

to Russia on further newspaper assignments. Reed turned up there about the same time, independently. Returning to the United States in 1918, Reed wrote his history of the Revolution, *Ten Days That Shook the World* (reissued this week by Penguin at £1.95), which was later to provide Eisenstein with the basis of his film *October*. Bryant, a better writer, collected her newspaper articles into *Six Red Months in Russia*.

Reed returned to the Soviet Union in 1919 as delegate of the Communist Labour Party of America, newly formed in defiance of the growing Red scares and Palmer Raids. Bryant followed, as a correspondent for the Hearst newspapers. Soon after their reunion in 1920, Reed, already weakened by a kidney complaint and a spell of imprisonment in Finland, died of typhus. Louise Bryant lived on until 1936, when she died in an automobile accident.

Out of these events that Warren Beatty and his English co-writer Trevor Griffiths have fashioned a romance, set against the background of stirring historical events — the rise and suppression of American radicalism; the Great War; the Revolution. It is an honourable method (cf. Tolstoy, Pasternak) but one that demands a fine sense of equilibrium. The risks become apparent when the storming of the Winter Palace coincides, not without a touch of misplaced symbolism, with the American couple's sexual reunion. But by and large Beatty maintains his balance and respects historical values: he displays his characters' Marxist ideals without cynicism or condescension, even if he shows the onset of disillusion as sooner and more brutal than may have been the case.

He links recreation and reality by using a recurring chorus of real figures who remember the times and in some cases the people of his drama — they include Henry Miller, Rebecca West, George Jessel, Hamilton Fish, Dora Russell and the Hollywood fan magazine, *Adels*. Rogers St. Johns. Perversely, though, Beatty does not identify them: the withered faces appear in maddening anonymity. Although it provides observant viewers with a spot-the-nonagenarian game (my score is a low five) to deprive them of their identities deprives them also of authority. Beatty is not presumably so naive

as merely to fear that identification would give his film the look of television reportage. So we can only surmise that his reason for keeping documentary at a distance was to prevent too close an examination of his own version of history.

He does seem to have taken some liberties for the sake of romance. As Reed, Beatty's mixture of charm and toughness is credible; but Diane Keaton, understated as Louise Bryant, Bryant's fight for emancipation must have been far more aggressive than Annie Hall's. It is too simple, moreover, to focus the betrayal and disillusion of the Revolution on the single figure of Zinoviev (shown, accusingly, wolfing a feast of caviar). Zinoviev's worst flaw was a fatal vacillation. For such a long film, some of its points are, like this one, very baldly made, while others are laboured to the point of tedium.

The intentions are exemplary. The parts are wholly excellent. The staging, the design, clever use of popular music of the period; fine performances by (among others) Maureen Stapleton as the legendary Emma Goldman and Jack Nicholson as O'Neill. The whole, though, just does not deliver the satisfaction and exaltation of an integrated dramatic composition.

Sydney Pollack's *Absence of Malice* (which has just competed in the Berlin Film Festival) joins the long line of newspaper pictures which stretches back at least fifty years. To Lewis Milestone's *The Front Page*. In those days newspapermen tended to be reluctant heroes. Now we are more sceptical about the media and Kurt Luedtke's screenplay portrays the daily press with fairly undisguised distaste.

Sally Field, with her permanent look of innocent crusader, is an expert young reporter with a naive cub faith that the truth must out. She is a ready tool for a shady faction in the justice department who want to smear an innocent man, hoping to smoke out useful information. She glibly prints their planted information. The smears stick: one life is wrecked and another lost before the victim turns the tables, plants his own false information on the media and topples the dirty tricksters in the DA's office.

The film's reflections on the responsibilities of the media do not go very deep. The pleasure of the film is rather in a well-scripted, beautifully contrived drama, with a

morally satisfying third-act dénouement. Pollack uses Miami locations to create a very tangible feel of the Florida scene and Florida society.

The performances add to the pleasure. At 57 Paul Newman is still the most handsome of Hollywood leading men. Sally Field makes the girl's bright, eager, thoughtless ambition as credible as it is awful; and the supporting performances of Luther Adler, Melinda Dillon, John Harkins and Wilford Brimley (a blacksmith turned scene-stealer) are all incisive.

Taps, directed by Harold Becker and based on a novel by Devery Freeman, is a small, promising idea whose possibilities have all been exhausted long before its two hours and more have run out. The boys of a military academy are deeply influenced by the chivalrous ideals — verging on the fanatic — of their commandant (George C. Scott). When events abruptly remove the commandant and threaten the school with instant closure, the boys take up their arms to withstand siege by the forces of law, order and parental authority.

The script painstakingly explores the tensions between the three leading boys: the hothead who eventually precipitates the inevitable bloody finale; the rational mediator; and the gentle, idealist acting commandant, played by Timothy Hutton. The success of the film in the United States appears to be largely due to the attractions of young Hutton, the boy from *Ordinary People*, for the teenage audience. With wells of tears for eyes, he seems set to play the male equivalent of those great emotional roles which Lana Turner once filled.

Taps at least looks as if it was made by people with minds and some vague thoughts about the dangers of the military sentiment. *Hallowe'en II* looks like the result of a computer malfunction. The teenage-horror school of horror is reduced to a monotonous recital of killings, corpses, gore and cremations. A psychopath, homicidal and boringly indestructible, stalks: Donald Pleasence is anguished; Jamie Lee Curtis, as always, comes out screaming but uncathartic. John Carpenter, with Debra Hill, takes credit for the script, which hardly deserves the name. Rick Rosenthal directs without managing to bring off even the most mechanical horror effects.

David Robinson

Opera

Heroine transformed

Manon

Coliseum

Few musicians have argued the cause of French opera more effectively over the past few years than Valerie Masterson. She certainly has the force behind the Coliseum revival of *Manon* this week. Massenet's score may drag its sentimental feet from time to time, but Manon herself grows up with remarkable speed and Miss Masterson reveals every aspect of that change.

There is the wait-like creature of the opening scene in Amiens, the girl still living half in her dreams but more interested in a fling than a stay in the convent. Paris immediately teaches her to be more calculating, but she is still uncertain of the monologue of hesitation before Manon says farewell to her little table was marvellously handled by Miss Masterson. At the Cour-la-Reine a few different doubts have set in and she is streaks of sadness in the Gavotte — Valerie Masterson herself now has to take a little more care than once she did in negotiating the upper notes. Finally, on the road to La Havre, there is the broken woman, the one-time coquette, reaching out into the evening sky for her lost diamonds. "Et c'est là, l'histoire de Manon", she says, her voice impregnated with admiration in voice and gesture. At the curtain Valerie Masterson caught the first three bouquets thrown from the stalls cleanly and single-handed. We could have done with her Sri Lanka.

The rest of the revival is

on a good repertory level, no more. John Brecknock, her partner when this production was new, turns in a variable Des Grieux. He is at his best when singing full out at the end of the opera; earlier the voice lacked the suave Massenet demanded, and tenors such as Legay unfortunately provided. Nor does he cut much of a figure on stage: there was doggy affection rather than passion for Manon and it was difficult to see just what makes the Des Grieux of the St Sulpice congregation swoon when Des Grieux takes up holy orders in Act III. Alan Ople's study of Lescaut, Geoffrey Chard's sombre Count — Massenet's reflection of Germaine Péro from *La traviata* — and a venomous Des Grieux from Patrick Wheatley all are much stronger characterizations. The production needs pulling together, preferably by the original director, John Copley. Some of the sets still enchant, notably the courtyard in Amiens with the dappled sunlight on the roofs much in the style of another Henry Bardou design for a Massenet opera, *Werther* at Glyndebourne some years ago. The Co-sal-la-wine of a clever Watteau pastiche, accurately mirroring Massenet's own musical pastiches, but the ballet is dreary. No wonder Manon comments that she did not notice it. At the end of the opera, a poorly handled, Lionel Friend in the pit has good rapport with his star, Valerie Masterson, who makes this revival well worthwhile, but he could apply a silkier hand to parts of the score.

John Higgins

Concerts

Programmed poise

City of London Sinfonia/Hickox

Queen Elizabeth Hall

A vital balance is the keynote of Richard Hickox's City of London Sinfonia. You find it in their string sound, where the violin's fine strength and brightness, like a silver wire, is not so much blended with softer violas and cellos as complemented by them.

You find it also in their programmes, of which Wednesday night's was a particularly exquisite example. We began and ended by E flat as so differently inhabited by I. C. Bach and Stravinsky. And, as those names may hint, there was a nice equiscope of classic and modern with Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, played by Jack Brymer, set against the Flute Concerto of Nigel Osborne.

This work was commissioned by the orchestra for an earlier occasion and it was good to see them giving a second hearing to a much applauded piece, doing so, moreover, with their own flautist, Duke Dobing, taking over the solo from Austin Nicolson and drawing it into more sober and reflective regions, worried rather than

hectic. Two such excellent performances within two years are a tribute to the stimulus contained within the music.

For the listener, too, Osborne's concerto is an exciting experience, vividly so in its outer movements but less in the still, luminous slow movement. Such things as a glorious sunset for strings and high oboe in descent. It is also a piece that can converse meaningfully with the eighteenth century. The third "Brandenburg" coming afterwards, revealed within its own framework the same sparkling combination of separate lines, textures, metres, harmonic planes.

On the other hand, the contemporary work became a corrective to the J. C. Bach symphony heard before. The minuet finale, though common in the early classical period, had long been overtaken by events, so that inevitably one expects something else to follow. Osborne's finale shows how an ending can be abrupt but also final, for just at the point when all the splinters have been assembled, just at the point when the music is ready to take off, it stops.

Paul Griffiths

Background: Brandis Quartet

A balance of personalities

"And here — here is the end of the world." With the February sun lighting the birches behind, and the grey quietness of morning in East Berlin ahead, Thomas Brandis, founder of the Brandis Quartet of Berlin and leader of the Berlin Philharmonic, showed me the Wall. "People are leaving Berlin now, it's all old ladies and dogs — they don't want to live on an island..."

For musicians, west and east of the Wall, travel at least is a little easier. The Brandis Quartet, in the six years of their life, have already played in Vienna, Leipzig, Budapest, Leningrad and Paris. This week they have been visiting Bayreuth, Hanover and Bremen before starting their first British tour, with a concert at Oxford tonight and their London debut at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday afternoon.

By the age of 10, Brandis had already decided he wanted to have a string quartet. He was a prodigy, but the young members eventually went their different ways. Meanwhile he studied as a soloist in England with Max Rostal, joined the Berlin Philharmonic in 1961 and became a member of their Soloists ensemble. "But I'd always said that by the time I was 40 I'd have my own string quartet — and that's how it was." With the cellist Wolf Boettcher, and the younger members of the BPO (Peter Brem, now second violin and the quartet's manager, and Wilfried Strehle, chosen for the warmth and character of his viola playing) they gave their first concert in 1976 in the small German town of Hitzsacker. A year later they twice filled the 2,000-seat Philharmonie in Berlin.

The quartet is well named. Brandis makes it clear: "I wanted to build the quartet with my ideas and those of Wolfgang. I don't believe in homogeneity. A quartet is an ensemble of four players, and you must hear all the personalities. I've loved the Amadeus since I was a boy: they are four distinct personalities and I'd like to think that's our hallmark too." The musical maturity, close rapport and strength of personality of the two outer parts work like an electric charge, visibly and audibly sharpening and energizing the playing.

"Perhaps it's not so good that we are still in an orchestra; but it is good that we're in this orchestra." They have been labelled as producing "the Karajan sound in miniature". But a quartet is a very different creature from an orchestra. Compliment or insult? "I don't like to hear with me. Because the Karajan sound is always a little too smooth, too soft for me. But above all, in this orchestra you learn to listen — and the main thing in ensemble playing is listening."

That confirmed everything I heard the afternoon before in the Philharmonie. Karajan was rehearsing for a concert performance of *Tosca* with Ricciarelli, Raimondi and Carreras. There, the orchestra, in turn, seemed like a magnified chamber ensemble, and the atmosphere was that of a performance, not a rehearsal.

Herbert von Karajan spoke warmly and enthusiastically to me of the quartet itself; ironically his praise, and indeed indirect influence on their careers together, will soon lose him his number one leader. With 13 students, continuing solo work, and coaching for the European Community Youth Orchestra, Brandis now considers his main work as being with the quartet, and he plans to leave the orchestra in 1983 or 1984, as Wolfgang Boettcher did six years ago.

Although he feels few quartets have built up such a wide repertoire in six years, Brandis is eager to expand past the solid core of Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven. They already have a considerable number of first performances behind them, including works by Beyer and von Einem; the premiere of a quartet by the Austrian Giselher Klebe is planned for next year. At Edinburgh this year they will give the first performance of some pieces by György Kurtág.

Brandis nevertheless wants 90 per cent of their repertoire to remain classical. Schubert's "Death and the Maiden", which they will play on Sunday and in Birmingham, Leeds and Rochdale, is, for them, the quartet par excellence. They don't know how Schubert did it. There's no symphony like this. I learnt from my childhood that a quartet must learn from a singer. It is Fischer-Dieskau and Peter Schreier who tell me how to play Schubert. I tell my students they must go to song recitals to learn how to play the violin. . . .

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Edward II

Round House

Brecht's version of *Edward II* sank like a lead balloon when the National Theatre staged it in 1968, and we have had to wait for this Foco Novo production to discover what the work is about.

First of all, it is an original play, not an adaptation along the lines of Brecht's reshaping of the *Recruiting Officer*. It contains chunks of Marlowe (still recognizable through William Smith and Ralph Latham's booming, Adels Marlowian elements have gone: no glittering imagery, no arias, no renaissance glamour. Gaveston changes from a sly inveigling "Fenchon" into an Irish Mick all set to inherit the earth. Marlowe's geometrically compressed time scheme stretches out to the full 19 years from the coronation to the murder. The 40 characters shrink to a cast of 20. And, in this most pitiful of royal histories, there is hardly a moment of pathos.

Partly a counter-play, it is also a companion piece to Brecht's *Jungle of Cities*: another duel to the death between two amoral champions. Edward stands for the wisdom of the body, Mortimer for the sovereignty of the mind. And the excitement of the piece derives from the growth that takes place from those fixed positions.

Mortimer, when we first see him, is a scholar contemptuously surveying the vanity of the world from the seclusion of his library, and gradually, enticed into applying his intellect to the business of politics. The Queen begins as a humiliated Marlowian wraith, but once she switches allegiance to Mortimer — betraying her husband and son — she declines into drunken gluttony, laughing at the emptiness of the world. Just as Mortimer did before he was drawn into the game. As for the King, Brecht changes him from a passionately helpless victim of events into a campaign-hardened warrior



Ian Hogg, with Beth Morris as Queen Anne

who first refuses to sign the order for Gaveston's banishment and then refuses to abdicate. Brecht transforms the physical horrors of his imprisonment into scenes of political brainwashing which Edward — existing in his torment — resists to the end; still true to his doctrine of the body.

Roland Kees's production is a good example of what can be gained by casting off the fetters of orthodox Brechtian staging. The intention of the play is never in doubt: but it is revealed without any of the apparatus of slide projections, puppetry or fixed lighting.

There are high back walls, two long entrances, and a battery of brass and percussion, whose clanking rhythms for the coronation immediately forecast the drums that are to keep the captive Edward from sleep. The coronation scene also sets up another convention, introducing a group in de-leau at the stage margin before bringing them on: a simple device that cancels out the idea of historical playing, to take in high passion and intrigue along with the grotesque and broad comedy — as where a bedraggled group of four trudge on and introduce

Irving Wardle

BBCSO/Pritchard

Organ Spectrum

Festival Hall

Roger Sessions, composer, teacher and writer, was on Wednesday the representative American in the fourth of the Royal Philharmonic Society's series of seven concerts with an American connexion. One of the most influential composers of his generation, he is also one of the most European: this work, from his middle period, steams with the expressionism of chromaticism of Schoenberg, and leers with the braiding, ironic high spirits of Shostakovich in its capricious second movement, its finale's parodic brass and knotty wind writing.

But while those fingerprints help to locate the work, they also throw into relief its marked individuality, a tough, gnawing counterpoint of harmonies, a disquieting and dislocated neo-classical machinery, nagging finally, yet with a rigorous logic against the waves of stylistic and subjective nostalgia. The BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by John Pritchard were on top form with some outstanding wind solos outlining the Adagio's elegiac memorial to Roosevelt.

Walton's Cello Concerto was presented by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and first performed in Europe by the BBCSO at a Royal Philharmonic Society concert. Ralph Kirshbaum gave an appropriately celebratory performance, making the work seem bolder, more fibrous, less heady in its finely imagined and crafted Ravellian sound world than it sometimes does. Particularly telling was the nature of recall from the first to the last movement; Kirshbaum's rich, expansive handling of the long lyrical opening theme echoed as it from a great distance in the finale's epilogue. Each variation or improvisation became a tense and constantly fluctuating self-consuming which tingled in turn the nerves of the orchestral episodes.

Variation and improvisation in its most basic form had earlier in the evening characterized one of the more colourful programmes of the GLC's Organ Spectrum series. John Birch invested the textbook Air with Variations by Henry Smart (1813-1879) with admirable grace and charm; while Michael Laird and Paul Archibald, joining him for the first London performance of Geoffrey Burgon's *Sansus Variations* for two trumpets and organ, did what they could with its remarkably laboured vacuity.

Hilary Finch

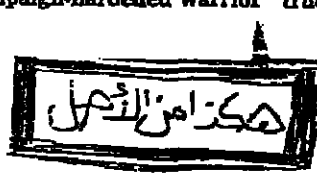
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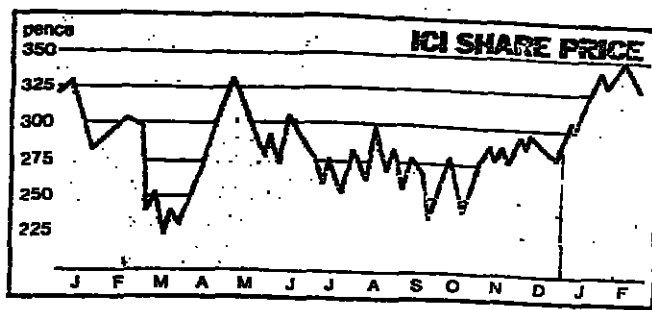
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 15. Dealings End Today. § Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

[illegible]

BUSINESS NEWS

Outlook less sure



ICI shares slumped to 225p, their lowest level for several years, after shocking the stock market a year ago by announcing more than halved profits and its first dividend cut since the war. But on hopes of good 1981 figures and brighter prospects the shares started to move ahead sharply at the beginning of the year only to turn weaker this week on worries — borne out yesterday — that the immediate outlook is not promising.

RTZ agrees to buy Tunnel

Rio Tinto-Zinc, which recently took over Thos W. Ward, has now reached agreement to buy Tunnel Holdings. RTZ already owns 50.9 per cent of Tunnel's voting rights and is offering four RTZ shares for every three Tunnel "A" or "B" shares. At last night's price this values Tunnel's shares at 578p and the group at £168m. There is a cash alternative of 550p a share from RTZ's own resources.

Shipping orders decline

New orders secured by the world's shipbuilding nations last year were 2 million tonnes lower than a year earlier although the industry's output in 1981 showed an appreciable gain on 1980 levels. Figures issued today by Lloyd's Register of Shipping showed that world shipbuilders have orders in hand totalling 35.3m tonnes gross. Among the nations which managed to increase their order books last year, Britain was one of eight nations with an order backlog of more than 1 million tonnes gross.

Post Office target review

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, has ordered a review of the financial target of the Post Office. The present target, which requires the postal business to achieve a return of 2 per cent on turnover after interest, expires at the end of the coming financial year. Mr Jenkin said in the Commons he had agreed with the Post Office that it should reduce its unit costs by 5 per cent by 1984-85.

● The EEC Commission has dropped an anti-dumping case over United States polyester and cotton sheets and pillowcases because its inquiry found there was no case to answer despite British and Irish complaints.

● Receivers have been called in at Pearson and Co (Chester) domestic pottery manufacturers, and Irvine Sellers Group (Holdings), the clothing company. Efforts are being made to sell both companies as going concerns.

● Businessmen will no longer be able to hide behind company names from today. New rules introduced by the 1981 Companies Act force all businesses to display the owners' names at the place of business. The names must be accompanied by a address and will also have to be shown on invoices and business letters.

● Romanian officials held exploratory talks with eight Western banks in Frankfurt yesterday on rescheduling an estimated \$1,200m of debts due in 1981. More talks are likely soon.

MARKET SUMMARY

Amersham dominates

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 551.8 down 0.8
FT Gilts 66.86 up 0.47
FT all-share 319.91 down 0.64
Bargains 24,339

Amersham International's debut dominated the early part of the day on the stock market, with the shares opening at 190p — a 48p premium. They slipped back to 185p but ended the day at 189p in heavy trading.

After opening on a bright spot up 6 points, disappointment over the ICI results outweighed optimism about interest rates and the FT index ended 0.8 down at 551.8.

ICI slipped from 332p to 326p immediately ahead of the figures and the chairman's comment that there was no firm evidence of an improvement in demand this year, but closed unchanged at 326p.

Plessey shed 10p to 353p on its third quarter results, despite these being at the top end of the market's estimates, while Thorn BML were another dull feature among leaders losing 13p to 453p.

Gilts opened better on the easing of United States interest rates and the prospect of a fresh decline in domestic rates but after early gains of 2½-3½ ended at the previous day's close in both long and short dates.

In its long-running take-over battle Burmah Oil, has again

extended its offer for Croda International by a further week. But with 17.91 per cent of Croda's voting shares Burmah has received scarcely any more acceptances in the past week and must decide no later than Monday whether to raise its offer under takeover code rules. Croda shares were unchanged at 83p with Burmah 1p better at 109p.

News that Charterhouse Petroleum had made an agreed bid worth 185p per share for CCP North Sea provided a boost to the recently dull oil sector. CCP had been suspended at 145p and returned at 155p while Charterhouse shares were 1p off at 71p.

Elsewhere in the sector Ultramar shed 11p to 390p on rumours of a rights issue but Lasso put on 10p to 264p ahead of next week's results.

BSR were a weak feature in electricals, shedding 7p to 76p, after one broker revised his profit forecast for the year to December down from £7m to £5m.

Camping retailers Greenfields Leisure are expected to report losses of around £200,000 next week and the shares slumped to a low of 20p. Meanwhile the group's former associates, BIL, left the market at 83p, less than half their 1981/2 peak of 172p.

Food retailers were helped by an optimistic trading review from Tesco chairman Mr Leslie Porter, and the shares put on 1p to 55p.

Equity turnover on February 24 was £150.643m (18,865 bargains). Gareth David

COMMODITIES

● All eyes were on tin, which during the second day of the possible squeeze collapsed, offering the first contango since November. Cash tin hit a seven-month low of £7,320 a tonne, and three-month tin ended the day 85s above the cash price.

● Rubber rallied after the International Natural Rubber Organisation bought for its buffer stock. The April price rose from 45.75p to 46.65 a kilogramme, and the May contract strengthened from 46.75p to 47.6p.

● The International Wheat Council has reduced its estimate of world coarse grain production in the current crop year by 2 million tonnes to 103m. But it has not changed its estimate of world wheat output and trade from 475 million tonnes and 100 million tonnes. The comparable figures last year were 445 million tonnes and 93 million tonnes.

TODAY

Car and commercial vehicle production in January (final figures). Sales and orders in the engineering industries (November). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth-quarter provisional). Board meetings: Half-yearly — Burnside Investments, Celtic Haven, Humberside Electronics. Finals — AI Industrial Products, Aigemene Bank Nederland, T F and J H Braime, Leopold Joseph Sterling Fund, Olives Paper Mill, Yorkshire Fine Woolen Spinners.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,580.45 down 83.57.
Hongkong: Hang Seng index 1,265.0 down 2.12.
New York: Dow Jones industrial average closed at 825.82, down 0.95.

CURRENCIES

● The pound moved narrowly against the dollar. Both strengthened against other currencies in quite trading ahead of today's United States money supply figures.

Sterling \$1.8335, up 35 points
Index 91.2, up 0.4
DM 4.3450
Fr.F 11.0700
Yen 433.00
New York: \$1.8287

Dollar Index 112.9, up 0.4
DM 2.3685, up 50 points
Gold \$368.50, up \$3.25
New York: \$365.70

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates were slightly easier where changed. The Bank of England bought £292m of bills in response to a forecast shortage of £200m. Its Band 1 rate was cut to 13½ per cent.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 13½
3-month inter bank 14½-15½
Euro-currency rates
3-month dollar 14½-15½
3-month DM 10½
3-month Fr.F. 15½-16½

Oil operators push for North Sea gas export

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Leading oil companies operating in the North Sea have told Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, that they fear his plans to privatise the North Sea gas business do not go far enough to create a genuinely free gas market. Unless the Government agrees to allow exports of its gas, the companies fear that its plans to break British Gas's monopoly purchase powers over gas — currently being considered by Parliament — will have little impact.

The issue was raised at a meeting earlier this week between the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association, which represents all the big oil companies that are active in the North Sea, and Mr Lawson at the Department of Energy. It follows a meeting of the association's council last week at which several companies expressed their disquiet about the inadequacy of the gas liberalisation proposals in the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, which is now in committee stage in the House of Commons.

The council originally wanted to send a letter to Mr Lawson outlining their fears, but agreed at the suggestion of officials at the Department of Energy to have urgent meetings with the Secretary of State and officials instead.

The operators' misgivings are likely to be embarrassing for the Government since the oil companies are supposed to be the main beneficiaries if the Government's plans to end British Gas's statutory right to buy all gas produced in the North Sea. Mr Lawson hopes that ending the state corporation's monopoly will lead to a sharp increase in exploration for gas, and allow oil companies to sell gas direct to industrial consumers on the mainland.

But the companies told him that unless the Government allows exports of gas to the Continent, British Gas will still in practice be able to undercut them. Only if the industry can be guaranteed higher prices will there be a significant increase in exploration activity for gas offshore.

Disclosure of the association's move comes only a day after similar criticism was voiced in a paper from the Bow Group, the Conservative Party pressure group.

Earlier this month Mr Lawson said that the Government might be prepared to consider gas exports if new exploration produced sufficient extra supplies of gas to meet the needs of the British market. But the companies' argument is that, under the present arrangements, which include a stipulation that all gas must be landed in this country, the exploration may never happen and the Bill could end up as a dead letter.

Mr Williams, the association's director-general, confirmed last night that the meeting had taken place. He said "at this moment the association is not pressing for any changes of amendments in the Bill". But the companies are believed to be hoping that Mr Lawson will be forced to make vital concessions when the regulations covering detailed aspects of the Bill are devised later this year.

● Shell and BP formally asked the British National Corporation for another reduction in North Sea prices yesterday, following the \$1.50 a barrel cut earlier this month. ENOC is expected to have to concede a further cut of at least \$2 a barrel, which will probably mean further falls in petrol prices.

ICI profit up £51m but gloom remains

By Ronald Pallen

Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest manufacturing group and a leading indicator of industry's health, warned yesterday that it could see little evidence of better times soon.

The caution of the ICI board contrasts with the more optimistic noises it was making last October, but Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's outgoing chairman, said: "There is considerable uncertainty over economic prospects for the remainder of 1982 in all major markets and there is no firm evidence yet of sustained improvements in demand."

However, the group's full year figures for 1981 more than satisfied the stock market. With a strong fourth quarter, ICI ended the year with pre-tax profits of £335m against the previous year's depressed £284m. Some indication of the group's confidence that the trading picture will improve this year comes with a bigger than expected increase in the dividend from 1p net to 15p.

Last year, ICI took the unprecedented step of cutting its dividend from 23p after one of its worst ever years, culminating in a second half loss.

Despite the improvements, ICI is still losing heavily in general of its most important divisions. After last year's restructuring, the Fibres loss has been cut from £86m to £36m and the group is tentatively hoping to break even this year if currencies do not move too adversely.

The other losers are organic chemicals, petrochemicals and plastics which together lost £84m against £113m, although there is less optimism that these will move out of the red.

Overall chemical sales increased 12 per cent to £5,750m last year although the volume gain was only 2 per cent and there was a 3 per cent fall in the United Kingdom market.

ICI appears to be taking a cautious line towards current year trading because of unpromising sales in January and February and the continued uncertainty over exchange rates which are of crucial importance in ICI's main markets.

Sir Hugh leaves the Harrods group Fraser cashes in his chips

By Philip Robinson



Sir Hugh Fraser: fresh start

Almost a year ago to the day, Sir Hugh Fraser gave up gambling for the second time. He has lost more than £1m in the past and admits the habit has played an important part in his fall from public life.

Yesterday he severed all management links with the Harrods stores group, which was built up by his father and is now run by a man unconnected with the family and who was introduced by a merchant bank.

Ironically, it was the disclosure of his return to the gaming tables and his admitted disorganised cheques that shocked boardroom colleagues as chairman of the House of Fraser more than 12 months ago.

They did so just after he had made friends again with Lomro chief Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, whose group holds just under 30 per cent of the Harrods shares.

He is acknowledged as a brilliant draper, but one who needed to be balanced by firm financial controls.

But it was his private life that eventually took over and pushed aside his business reputation.

Twice married Sir Hugh, once dubbed as the last really big gambler in Britain, lost an estimated £1.5m in 1976.

Six years ago he told a Stock Exchange inquiry that he had sold 1.5 million shares in Scottish and Newcastle in 1975 to meet gambling losses.

Sir Hugh, who once pledged to give up drinking, smoking and gambling, said last night: "I have not gambled for more than a year. But the pressure is on at the moment. I'm still drinking, although not nearly as much."

He says he now intends to start again in the drapery business. He is spending £250,000 on a tailor's shop in Glasgow, Paisley, and plans to extend into the drapery business. In August, he plans to marry for a third time, schoolteacher Annabel Finlay, aged 25.

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Call for new industrial policy

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director general of the National Economic Development Office, yesterday urged the Government and both sides of industry to bury their differences and formulate a new long-term industrial policy before politicians became embroiled in the run up to the next General Election.

There was now only a brief opportunity for some agreed approach on the requirements for industrial success, he said, and all concerned must seek to distance industry from the party political process.

"We cannot afford to see our industrial problems continue to be exacerbated as they have been since the war

by dogma and ignorance. Every government should have the health and competitiveness of productive industry — public and private, manufacturing and services — as the explicit criterion against which both macro and micro economic policy are measured."

Mr Chandler, speaking less than two weeks before the Chancellor's Budget statement, said that neither of the two opposing economic arguments of deflation and reflection were appropriate to the very complex set of causes that underlay Britain's problems. Neither touched the fundamentals of the country's long-term lack of competitiveness — inadequate

education, training, investment, management performance and work practices.

"Industry itself is traditionally and damagingly inarticulate in intellectual debate in its own cause. The battlefield is predominantly held by warring economists hurling sophisticated missiles, little understood by the man in the street, punctuated by the occasional recantation."

Mr Chandler, addressing the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education, said the greatest untapped potential in the country lay in the involvement, participation and creation of a sense of identity of interest by individuals in the company for which they worked.

LME authorities step in as tin prices tumble

By Michael Prest

Tin prices unexpectedly tumbled on the second day of the feared market squeeze. Cash tin fell by £775 to £7,320 a tonne, while three months metal was £310 lower at £7,385, giving the first contango since November.

Dealers were largely at a loss to explain why the fall had occurred so rapidly, but the London Metal Exchange authorities, whose activity behind the scenes has apparently done much to avert the squeeze which might have resulted from heavy buying since last July, were quick to step in.

Mr Michael Brown, chairman of the LME committee, said that tin trading appeared to have returned to a more

orderly basis. Members will be asked to give details of their tin positions on March 5, to be returned to the chairman by March 8. If nothing untoward is revealed, Mr Brown said, the £120 a tonne maximum premium may be abolished on March 11.

In fact, little or no premium was paid yesterday by traders, who were able to cover their positions as the price collapsed. Traders acknowledge that the LME's intervention was important in calming the market but they also point out that the purposes and identity of the operator who has dominated the market remain a mystery.

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect

from close of business

on 26th February 1982

its Base Rate for lending

is reduced from

14% to 13½%

per annum

Bank of Ireland

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on February 26th, 1982, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 14 per cent to 13½ per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Accounts will be at the rate of 11 per cent per annum.

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Amersham International employee inspects a pure solution for particles of dust through a polarizing screen.

Amersham's diagnosis for success

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Amersham International, the stock that every investor wants to put in his money into, is the only public company in the world whose main business is based on radioactive isotopes.

It makes isotopes for virtually every non-military application, from diagnosing disease to triggering nuclear reactors.

at very high energy. It gives off radiation, which can be used either to trace a compound through the human body or to cause reactions — for example destroying cancer cells.

The main application for Amersham's isotopes is in medicine. Half are used directly for health care and another quarter are for medical research.

Diagnosis is the most important field. Amersham manufactures radiopharmaceuticals that are given to the patient by mouth or injection. Their distribution in the body can then be monitored by a gamma camera which picks up the radiation they give off.

However, the fastest growing diagnostic market is for clinical testing kits, which involve no direct application of radioactivity to the patient.

Amersham uses two nuclear reactors at Harwell, Dido and Pluto, to make most of its isotopes. The non-radioactive target material is bombarded with neutrons in the reactor, and some atoms are converted to the new radioactive isotope. A lot of very intricate separation and chemical synthesis is then required before the pure product can be shipped.

"If we cannot make the isotope efficiently in a reactor, we use a cyclotron and fire charged particles at a target," Dr Stuart Burgess said. The company is bringing into operation a new, powerful cyclotron.



Co-op Bank Group announces a change in base rate

From 14.00% to 13.50% p.a.
On and after Friday, 26th February 1982

Deposit Rates will become:
7 day deposits 11.00% p.a.
1 month deposits 11.25% p.a.
Short-term deposits from 12.00% to 13.60% p.a.
depending on amount & term (minimum £500 & 6 months)

First Co-operative Finance Limited
Cheque & Save current notional interest rate is 10%

Standard Chartered announces that on and after 25th February 1982 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 14% to 13½% p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 12% to 11% p.a.
The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 13% to 12% p.a.

Standard Chartered Bank PLC

Cider-makers' cheer... shareholders' perks

Lower duty brings in the drinkers

The brewers have got their backs against the bar-room wall. Figures released yesterday from the Brewers' Society forecast a 2 to 3 per cent decline in beer sales for 1982. (Drew Johnston writes).

Consumption has been falling since 1979 when Britain's drinkers downed 32m pints a day. In 1981 this fell to 30.5m and the forecast for 1982 is 29.5m.

Mr Derek Palmer, chairman of the society and chairman of Bass, blamed tax duty and value-added tax for the fall, which he said had increased by 96 per cent in 2½ years.

The drop in sales is forcing brewers to move into other consumer-related products, such as food and leisure.

Analysts rule out a round of takeovers and mergers within the industry. The fall in beer consumption is giving a boost to cider. Years of advertising the product may finally be paying off for the cider makers.

But lower duty on cider - 4p a pint against 12½p on a pint of beer - has given recession-hit drinkers an excuse to switch from beer. So H. P. Bulmer and Merrydown are being chased by investors.

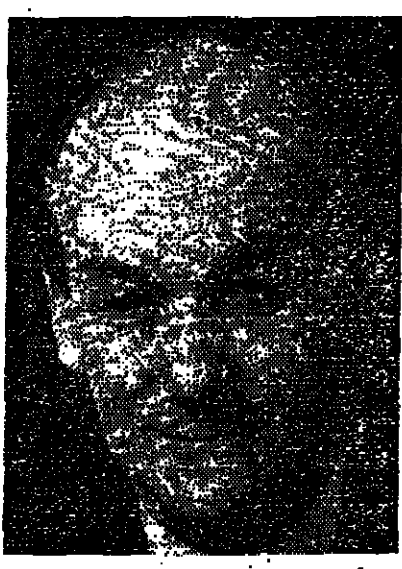
Hongkong's stock markets took little notice of Financial Secretary Mr John Bembidge's maiden budget. Wall Street's interest rates dominate the colony, leaving local investments flat. Once those fall, attention will refocus on inflation. Scrapping the 15 per cent withholding tax on foreign currency deposits could encourage fund raising to be done rather than merely booked in Hongkong.

BIDS AND DEALS

BICC has agreed in principle to purchase for £1.6m cash a 25 per cent interest in Larivert Aluminium, a Belgian aluminium rod producer. The effect of the investment will be to secure for BICC, on beneficial terms, supplies of aluminium alloy rod for the manufacture of overhead line conductors and power cables.

Readcut International has sold the businesses of Shaw Polythene, Shaw Roadblock and Shapeways for about £800,000 in cash payable in respect of stocks and trademarks.

Kew House Retail, the fresh food retailing business based in Merseyside, has made an acquisition which makes it the largest independent fresh food business in the country.



Keith Wickenden: diversification

How to travel on the cheap

Demand for airline seats may have slumped, but the ferry companies still face stiff competition from the airlines in the holiday travel market. (Drew Johnston writes).

This is one reason why several ferry companies offer generous travel concessions to shareholders.

Companies which give this useful perk are P and O, European Ferries, DFDS Danish Seaways, Isle of Man Steam Packet, and the quoted company with the longest name in the London market, Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Steam Packet Company.

As the table shows, European Ferries gives discounts up to 50 per cent.

	P&O	IoM	DFDS	ES
Discount (per cent)	30-50	50	50-100	25-50
Min. holding	200 def or 500 pref	250 ord	2,400 ord	300
Discount applies	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27

cent on its services to France. But to qualify this summer your name had to be on that short register on February 1.

P and O also sells to France, and offers travel discounts as soon as the shareholder appears on the company register. According to many analysts, there are also good investment reasons for buying the company's shares.

"The prospective dividend yield is around 9.2 per cent, which is attractive," a leading shipping sector analyst said yesterday.

Profits recovered in the second half of 1981 and there is excitement in the shipping world over the enormous estimated savings in operating costs which its recently announced Finnish-built liner will achieve.

P and O's share price is also strong on constant rumours of a takeover bid from the Far East.

European Ferries, yesterday announced its plan to buy out the share of its partner, Mormaco, in their 22 million square foot property development in Denver, Colorado.

Profits from the project will contribute substantially to the 1982 figures.

The 1981 figures, due in May, are expected to be poor, but the market thinks the shares are a good recovery buy. Estimates of the 1981 profit performance average around £18m pretax, against £30.4m in 1980.

Gross dividend yield is expected to be 5.4 per cent, with the earnings ratio about 17.

But under Keith Wickenden, its entrepreneurial chairman, the market is looking for the company to reach the benefits of diversification in 1982. Pretax profit forecasts for 1982 are pitched at anything between £22m and more than £30m.

DFDS Danish Seaways is to consider its position on cheap fares

	So'ton	Euro Ferr	DFDS
Discount (per cent)	30-50	50	50-100
Min. holding	200 def or 500 pref	250 ord	2,400 ord
Discount applies	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27

for shareholders at a board meeting in April. Scandinavian specialists at stockbrokers Vickers de Costa rate the shares a buy, despite the possible withdrawal of its cheap-fares-for-shareholders policy.

Shares in the two regional ferry companies, Southampton and Isle of Man, are not particularly active.

Reaping the Red harvest

Russia-watchers in commodity markets believe the Russians have enough revenue to buy present grain needs. Perhaps gold, platinum and gas oil can stop reeling after the succession of Soviet sales this winter to raise cash. (Sally White writes).

Russia bought a record amount of around 4 million tons. They need only another 2 tons.

They will probably pick it up from a variety of origins, including Australia. We think the grain markets will be flat. Mr Mike Hinebaugh of Conti-Committee, offshoot of United States Continental Grain, said.

Next deadline commodity markets await, for guesses for this year's harvests in May. Three years in succession were bad, a fourth is unlikely. Given social unrest in Moscow, Moscow is under pressure to supply food to member countries.

Another bad harvest will drive Soviet Union to the markets again.

Sentiment in the metals markets is bearish. Yesterday's *Annual Review of the Metals Markets* from Hargreaves & Williams, metals analysts and investment advisors, will not relieve the gloom (Michael Prest writes).

The report says no metal looks a safe bet, some like tin are positively dangerous, and only political crises could jerk the markets out of depression this year.

	So'ton	Euro Ferr	DFDS
Discount (per cent)	30-50	50	50-100
Min. holding	200 def or 500 pref	250 ord	2,400 ord
Discount applies	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27	on reg. on Feb 27

INTERNATIONAL



JAPAN

Japan has hit back at the United States for renewing pressure on Tokyo for additional trade concessions. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, chief cabinet secretary and official spokesman, said the Japanese Government doubted whether the United States knew the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "That is why they have introduced reciprocity legislation that could send us back to the 1930s," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, has called a meeting of his cabinet council next week to discuss the issue. A Japanese trade mission to the United States arrives back home on Saturday.

UNITED STATES

United States car sales in mid-February were rather better because of rebates, but were still down on the same period a year ago.

The five big American car makers sold 167,295 cars between February 11 and 20, down 1.4 per cent from 169,614 in mid-February of 1981. Nevertheless, it was the fifteenth consecutive 10-day period in which sales failed to match year earlier levels.

MALAYSIA

The International Natural Rubber Organisation will hold a special meeting in Kuala Lumpur on March 5 and 6 to discuss the European Community's request for an extension of the deadline for ratification of the International Natural Rubber Agreement. Sixteen consuming countries have ratified the agreement but Belgium and Italian ratification is awaited.

CHINA

The first contracts for oil exploration off China's shores are likely to be signed with foreign oil companies in the first quarter of 1983, according to Mr Melvin Searls, commercial counsellor at the United States Embassy in Peking.

AUSTRALIA

De Beers' diamonds selling arm, the Central Selling Organisation, is the only group with a capacity to handle the quantity of diamonds expected from the Argyle deposit in North-West Australia, according to Mr Doug Anthony, the Australian Trade Minister.

Plessey continues excellent performance

NINE MONTHS' RESULTS

- Group sales up 14.6% to £673.9 million
- Pre-tax profits up 29.9% to £78.8 million
- Earnings per share up 22.9%
- Exports up 31.5%

AN EXTRACT FROM THE PLESSEY COMPANY'S UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS.

SALES	£673.9	£673.9	£673.9
OPERATING PROFIT	£78.8	£78.8	£78.8
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£78.8	£78.8	£78.8
EARNINGS PER SHARE (PENCE)	20.55	20.55	20.55

Notice of Redemption

International Standard Electric Corporation

9% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, \$1,485,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on April 1, 1982 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1982.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

M 4	2943	3387	4608	5518	7044	8277	9465	10700	12237	14857	16738	18286	19750	21342	22386	23822	25835	26881	28177
10	2076	3393	4604	5519	7079	8283	9463	10710	12240	14867	16833	18296	19842	21344	22392	23829	25849	26897	28187
48	2114	3466	4608	5527	7082	8306	9742	10724	12371	14858	16847	18327	19898	21369	22416	23847	25862	26908	28204
78	2124	3476	4714	5115	7102	8323	9759	10741	12388	14869	16858	18338	19909	21380	22427	23858	25873	26919	28215
345	2138	3476	4718	5677	7110	8327	9778	10759	12408	14893	16882	18362	19933	21404	22451	23882	25897	26943	28239
481	2148	3486	4728	5687	7120	8337	9788	10769	12418	14903	16892	18372	19943	21414	22461	23892	25907	26953	28249
511	2211	3527	4721	5634	7183	8339	9815	10770	12502	14928	16917	18397	19968	21439	22486	23917	25932	26978	28274
512	2211	3543	4735	5673	7231	8339	9820	10770	12502	14928	16917	18397	19968	21439	22486	23917	25932	26978	28274
782	2243	3585	4747	5685	7234	8342	9829	10775	12512	14938	16927	18407	19978	21449	22496	23927	25942	26988	28284
800	2274	3584	4754	5685	7238	8349	9830	10780	12512	14938	16927	18407	19978	21449	22496	23927	25942	26988	28284
821	2277	3586	4759	5703	7282	8338	9836	10782	12515	14940	16929	18410	19980	21451	22498	23929	25944	26990	28286
1000	2283	3586	4759	5703	7282	8338	9836	10782	12515	14940	16929	18410	19980	21451	22498	23929	25944	26990	28286
810	2283	3586	4759	5703	7282	8338	9836	10782	12515	14940	16929	18410	19980	21451	22498	23929	25944	26990	28286
817	2401	3803	4808	5720	7289	8445	10011	11071	12725	15011	17011	18511	20011	21511	22511	23511	24511	25511	26511
824	2412	3814	4819	5732	7292	8448	10014	11074	12729	15014	17014	18514	20014	21514	22514	23514	24514	25514	26514
828	2438	3840	4837	5731	7317	8457	10017	11077	12732	15017	17017	18517	20017	21517	22517	23517	24517	25517	26517
845	2446	3850	4855	5759	7325	8465	10022	11082	12737	15022	17022	18522	20022	21522	22522	23522	24522	25522	26522
1000	2452	3856	4861	5765	7331	8471	10028	11088	12743	15028	17028	18528	20028	21528	22528	23528	24528	25528	26528
881	2470	3723	4822	5711	7332	8469	10033	11093	12748	15033	17033	18533	20033	21533	22533	23533	24533	25533	26533
887	2472	3725	4824	5714	7335	8470	10036	11096	12751	15036	17036	18536	20036	21536	22536	23536	24536	25536	26536
1000	2478	3731	4829	5719	7340	8475	10041	11101	12756	15041	17041	18541	20041	21541	22541	23541	24541	25541	26541
824	2518	3746	4864	5733	7358	8483	10048	11108	12763	15048	17048	18548	20048	21548	22548	23548	24548	25548	26548
828	2556	3772	4888	5758	7362	8487	10052	11112	12767	15052	17052	18552	20052	21552	22552	23552	24552	25552	26552
942	2597	3789	4901	5759	7369	8494	10060	11120	12775	15060	17060	18560	20060	21560	22560	23560	24560	25560	26560
1017	2622	3788	4894	5758	7370	8494	10060	11120	12775	15060	17060	18560	20060	21560	22560	23560	24560	25560	26560
1024	2632	3808	4898	5762	7372	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1056	2648	3807	4892	5757	7377	8496	10062	11122	12777	15062	17062	18562	20062	21562	22562	23562	24562	25562	26562
1057	2648	3807	4892	5757	7377	8496	10062	11122	12777	15062	17062	18562	20062	21562	22562	23562	24562	25562	26562
1068	2681	3814	4897	5760	7379	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1076	2687	3821	4902	5762	7377	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1078	2687	3821	4902	5762	7377	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1284	2675	3850	4920	5784	7374	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1246	2677	3821	4902	5762	7377	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563
1284	2675	3850	4920	5784	7374	8497	10063	11123	12778	15063	17063	18563	20063	21563	22563	23563	24563	25563	26563

PEOPLE

Neill Scott's ticket to efficiency

Neill Scott, six foot and 17 stone, swims to keep down his weight, but presumably puts it on again playing championship bridge. Neill will add a touch of much needed solidity next Wednesday to an unreliable looking Unlisted Securities Market, the stock exchange's twilight market for up and coming companies whose pedigree is a bit short.

This USM has had its reputation tarnished by the mishaps of American Communications Industries and Euroflame to name but two. Scott's company, Owners Abroad, took the unusual step when it went public in January of actually warranting the profits it is about to announce.

As if the accidents to Euroflame and ACI were not enough, anything to do with aircraft now reeks of disaster. But Owners is really a travel agency cum air broker. It books seats on planes rather than buy or borrow them, and Laker's crash steered customers Neill Scott's way.

Beer gets a new advocate



Alan Tilbury

What is the missing ingredient the brewers need in their trade association? Sadly, a long experience in the corridors of power. Leaving the industry is Ronald Matthews, who joined the Brewers Society as a 15-shilling-a-week office boy in 1933. He is retiring as secretary to be replaced by Alan Tilbury. Reflecting the need to fight off the EEC's ideas of what makes a good pint, as well as persuading port-drinking ministers that beer is already taxed enough, Mr Tilbury has been hired because of his legal knowhow. He was once Attorney-General of Bechuanaland/Botswana.

Something, soon will be done about the plight of the down-trodden engineer who has for so long been ignored as a candidate for the boardroom in preference to those equipped with a "real" education. A new company called Gaming Executive Ltd. has been set up by an ex-manager of Rolls-Royce, Ralph Laing (20 years in management) to offer to the production manager and the engineer the chance to become top dog for a day. Expenditure, Gaming Executive, which takes five or six years of normal working to assimilate can be compressed into a few days.

Ken Baker's pet forum

A funny thing happened to Kenneth Baker on the way to the Forum yesterday: he found a computer there. Baker is the Minister for Information Technology and the Forum is the name of the library on the ground floor of the Institute of Directors' club in Pall Mall.

Baker, a member of the nearby Athenaeum and Carlton, was there for that unlikely addition to clubland, an ICL 2904 computer. Now, 100 members in the club's armchairs but feed into the computer their firms' figures and get advice on how to keep out of the red.

John Chandler is director of planning at Reed International, owners of the Daily Mirror for whom Cassandra, the late Sir William Connor used to write.

Chandler is a bit of a Cassandra himself, but he does his downsaying in not in the pop press but in heavy weight books among them Techniques of Scenario Planning (with Reed economist Paul Cockle), just out from McGraw-Hill.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

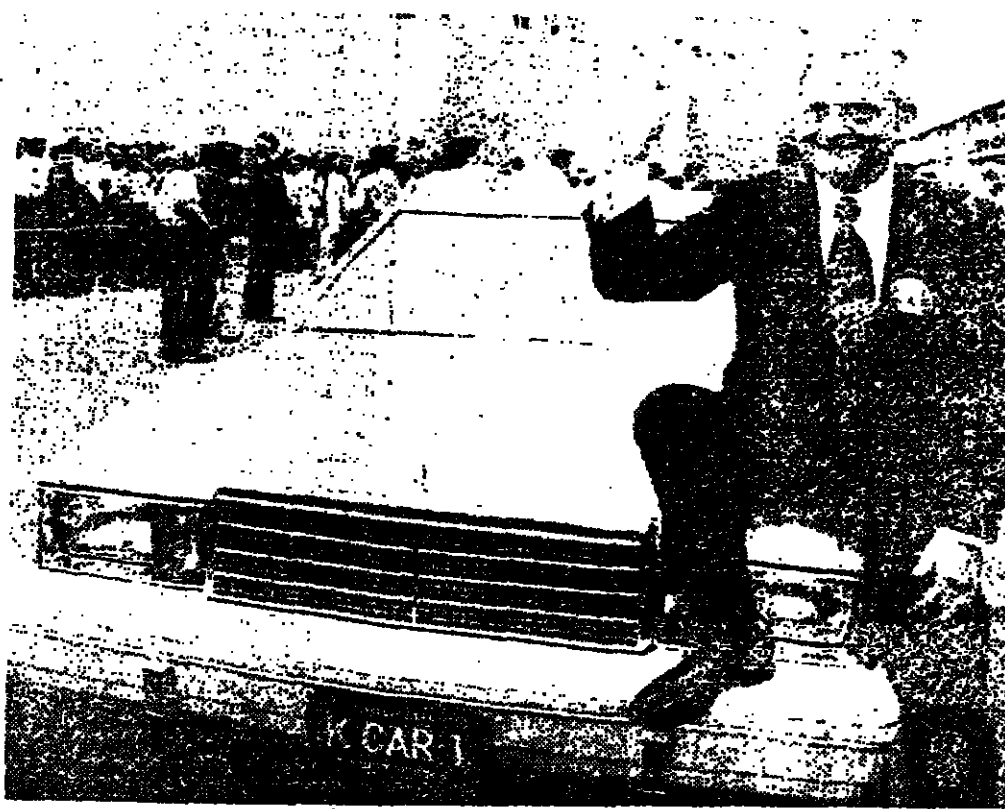
Sir Peter Matthews, chairman of Vickers has been elected president of the Engineering Employers' Federation. Also elected were two new vice-presidents: Mr Alister Greenwood, deputy chairman of British Aerospace; and Mr Duncan McDonald, chairman of Northern Engineering Industries.

Mr Dennis Adams, Mr Ronald Bessell, Mr Douglas Bull, Mr Ian Cox, Mr Amir Elion, Mr Bernard Joffe, Mr John Kibb, Mr Paul Mackay, Mr Terence Simonian and Mr Nigel Tapley have been appointed directors of Samuel Montagu International.

Mr John Cowland, Mr Frank Ellis and Mr Tom Niccum have been appointed directors of 3M United Kingdom.

America's car industry is making huge losses. Bailey Morris reports

Why Detroit is praying for an economic upturn



Mr Lee Iacocca, Chrysler chairman — The K-Car helped boost sales in 1981, but the company is still in deep financial trouble.

Washington Like dominoes, American car companies are falling prey to the continuing American recession, reporting huge losses like the one announced this week by the Chrysler Corporation, weakest of Detroit's "big three" firms.

For months, Wall Street analysts have been talking of "depression-like conditions" in the industry, correctly predicting that the Ford Motor Company, which reported a \$1,060m (£576m) loss last week, would have devastating results and that Chrysler would report yet another annual loss in the region of \$500m.

In the event Chrysler's fourth quarter results were somewhat better than expected (a loss of \$66m compared with \$235m in the comparable period in 1980) but the full year loss was fractionally short of predictions at \$476m. But that is cold comfort for Chrysler: losses are running at about twice the level the company had set itself as a target.

Even General Motors, which earned a modest profit of more than \$300m in 1981, lost money on its primary car-making business last year.

The industry is in very bad shape and experts expect the dismal conditions to continue into the second quarter of this year.

Sales volume in the industry has been down by as much as 40 per cent some months, and prices are too high (averaging \$10,000 a car). Consumers are simply refusing to buy.

There are growing fears both in Congress and on Wall Street that Chrysler may not be able to survive another year like 1981.

"I don't think Chrysler can last much more than a year, if conditions like these continue," says a veteran Detroit-based car industry analyst.

Despite impressive gains made by Chrysler last year, in which it topped more than two-thirds off 1980's record loss of \$1,700m, the company is still in a very tight cash-flow position.

Last week, for example, it sold off its last big, profitable unit — a defence subsidiary which makes tanks for the American Government — to General Dynamics Corporation for nearly \$350m. This, coupled with cash in the bank amounting to more than \$400m, gives the company reserves of about \$750m which may appear substantial but is not when it is realized.

that Chrysler must have \$250m on hand each Friday just to meet its payroll and expenses.

In two consecutive years of poor sales, Chrysler is living a hand-to-mouth existence, Ford is living off its assets, and General Motors is cutting back sharply.

High interest rates, rampant and car sales in North America continue to slump the worst scenario outlined by analysts is that Chrysler will be forced into bankruptcy; Ford will suspend North American car operations and concentrate on its profitable overseas units; and General Motors will emerge as the surviving domestic giant.

The Reagan Administration has made it very clear that this time there would be no government bail-out in the form of loan guarantees and other types of cash assistance.

But no one really expects the worst to occur. To prevent it from happening, both Chrysler and Ford have been cutting costs substantially in the past year by trimming their labour forces and closing down unprofitable plants.

Since 1979, Chrysler has

cut its labour force in half, from a high of 140,000 in the good, car-selling years to about 70,000. Ford has closed five plants and laid off one-third of its workforce which now stands at about 100,000.

In addition, both Chrysler and Ford have managed to negotiate remarkable concessions with the United Auto Workers (UAW) who have agreed to cuts in wages and benefits in return for job guarantees. These deals, together with the cutbacks, should help to make Chrysler and Ford a good deal more efficient.

General Motors, the only major company which has not reached agreement with the union, will have to make big cuts in the months ahead.

Officials at General Motors announced four plant closures after talks with the UAW were broken off because union members re-

fused to concede the sizable "givebacks" in wage and benefit concessions requested by the company.

Company officials say more plant closures are probable if the economy fails to pick up and an agreement with the union is not reached before the present contract expires on September 15.

Rumours that GM is prepared to close as many as 12 additional plants between now and September have been circulating on Wall Street and this same figure was mentioned in a recent article on the industry in Business Week magazine.

There are no estimates of how many workers these closures would affect but industry analysts say that each time an assembly plant is closed, it costs about 8,000 jobs.

Despite all the cost-cutting efforts, the profitability of the car makers is not ex-

pected to improve markedly until volume rises substantially. This will not happen until the economy improves and the major companies find ways of rekindling public interest in their products.

Even in 1978 — the last good year for domestic companies when they produced more than 9.1m cars — consumers were beginning to display a decided lack of enthusiasm for American-made cars.

This trend has continued as consumers put off car purchases in record numbers, partly because of economic conditions and partly because "they don't like the cars," says an analyst at stockbrokers Bache, Halsey, Stuart, Shields.

Chrysler, with its popular K-Cars, was the only American car maker to show an increase in unit sales in 1981, but in the first quarter of this year, the production rate was even lower.

The General Motors J-Cars, did badly because they were both "too expensive and too slow for an American-made vehicle," the Bache analyst says.

In contrast to the good years, when domestic companies made almost 10 million cars a year, volume last year dropped to 6.2 million cars and in the first quarter of this year, the production rate was even lower.

Given the massive investment by the companies in modernized production facilities, these low volumes cannot be tolerated. Altogether, the big three companies will spend an estimated \$85,000m to upgrade facilities during the period from 1979 to 1985.

Mr Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler, says his company has done everything it can to stimulate sales and the next step is up to the Government.

"At some point, the Federal Government is going to have to face up to the very serious problems of economic stagnation in this country. In the short term, it is going to have to get some people back buying cars, trucks and houses," Mr Iacocca said.

"The Government ought to get into the rebate business on its own, in the form of a \$1,500 investment tax credit for the purchase of a new, fuel-efficient car or truck," Mr Iacocca said.

He believes this could save the industry by increasing sales an estimated 1 million units a year and putting more than 250,000 people back to work.

HOW SALES HAVE FALLEN

	1978	1979	1980	1981
American Motors	170,739	162,057	149,438	136,682
Chrysler	1,146,258	1,058,000	690,017	729,873
Ford Motor	2,582,702	2,140,368	1,473,232	1,380,600
General Motors	5,385,282	4,917,911	4,116,482	3,796,596

Domestic car sales (excluding imports) in units

US and Japan: the chips are down

TECHNOLOGY: SEMICONDUCTORS

By Clive Cookson

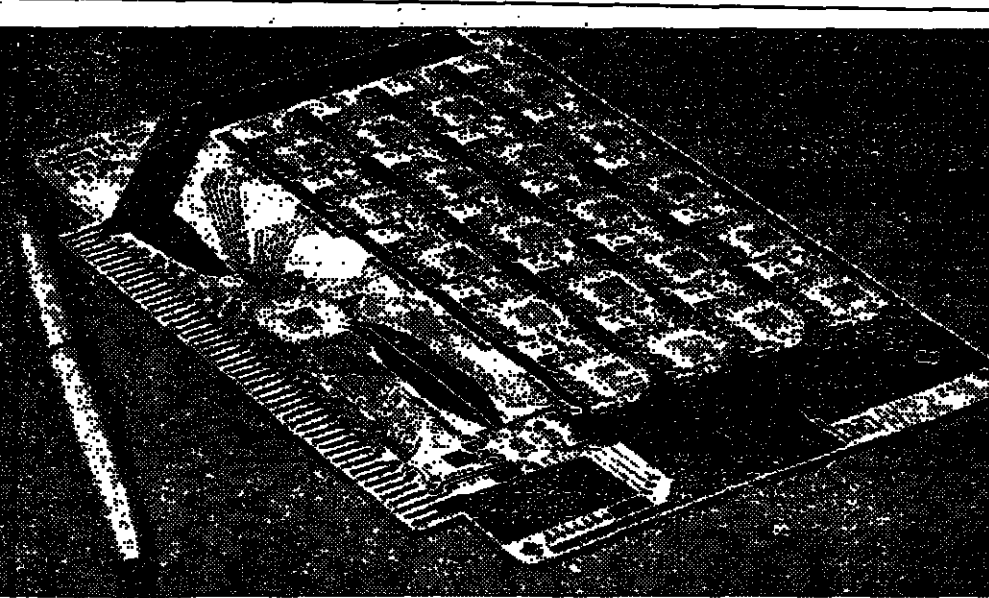
Within the last year the American semiconductor industry has lost the race with the Japanese to produce the latest generation of memory chips. That defeat, the industry's first major humiliation by Japan, has led many Americans to write off the chip as yet another important product that will be supplied from the other side of the Pacific.

To keep a sense of perspective, however, it is important to remember that the Japanese firms have only dominated one sector of the semiconductor industry: they are talking about 70 per cent of the 64k RAM (random access memory) chips sold on the open world market. Admittedly, it is the most competitive segment, and one where comparisons are most easily made, but it is far from the whole story.

The chip — an integrated electronic circuit written onto a wafer of silicon — comes in two main categories. One is the memory chip, which stores information. The other is the microprocessor, which processes information. The former may be falling into Japanese hands, but the leading edge of microprocessor technology is still very much American territory.

At this month's International Solid State Circuits Conference in San Francisco, the industry's main annual showcase, several American companies announced morale-boosting advances in microprocessor technology. Most spectacular is Hewlett-Packard's success in cramming 660,000 transistors on to a silicon chip — comfortably beating previous records for dense packing. Hewlett-Packard is putting into production a set of six such "superchips", which provide three to eight times the circuit density of other commercially available processors. Together they form the nucleus of a minicomputer which the company is expected to announce next year. It is likely to offer the Hewlett-Packard chips are one micron (a millionth of a metre) wide. That must take the conventional method of making chips — photographing the circuitry on to the silicon and then etching it chemically — to its ultimate limit.

Superchip: each semiconductor like the one above can, within a second, process the amount of information in 150 full-length books. It is American company Hewlett-Packard's new 32-bit microprocessor, containing up to 660,000 transistors on each quarter-inch square of silicon. It is wired to a copper-cored computer board



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16-bit microprocessor market are the American trio of Intel, Motorola and Texas Instruments. All are pushing the technology ahead rapidly, presenting the Japanese with a moving target that will be hard to shoot down.

Texas Instruments is steadily announcing members of its new TMS 99000 family of "third generation" 16-bit microprocessors, claimed to be the fastest in the world. The company's strategy will be to sell them hard for application outside the electronics industry. The chips would be in the front line of the campaign to automate production in the traditional heavy industries.

On top of its leading position in general-purpose microprocessors, Texas Instruments is committing considerable resources to the development of special chips for telecommunications — a market growing by 20 per cent a year and projected to reach \$5,500 million by 1991. In San Francisco this month, the company announced a new series of signal processors which can convert signals from the digital (one-off) language of computers to the analogue (smooth wave) form of the human voice. Potential applications include speech recognition and synthesis.

Even in memory chips the Japanese lead is not as clear cut as some United States commentators have made out. For the American firms that are thought to be the furthest ahead are the twin giants of information technology, IBM and AT&T. They have been mass-producing 64k RAM chips for use in their own products — com-

puters and telecommunications equipment — for about three years. But they do not sell chips on the open market and therefore do not show up in the world semiconductor trade statistics.

Both companies are ready to make the next four-fold leap in chip storage capacity. AT&T's manufacturing subsidiary, Western Electric, will start making a 256k RAM later this year, and IBM is apparently set to produce a 288k RAM. But, again, both corporations are likely to use their whole production in-house.

The only American company that is ready to go for the 256k market is Motorola, which seems to be emerging as the most successful of the struggling United States "merchant" semiconductor manufacturers. Motorola is also the only American firm to have challenged the Japanese successfully in the 64k market, where it has 20 per cent of world sales.

Innos, Britain's state-funded attempt to break into semiconductor mass-production, is getting ready to make 64k RAM chips this summer at its new factory in Newport, South Wales. It is late into a market where prices have plunged to as low as £2 for a chip that can store the same quantity of information as this article, but Innos executives still hope that their chips will offer a superior performance.

because they dare not provoke the United States into curbing imports of semiconductor chips, protectionist noises are now being heard across the Atlantic, with the Department of Defence muttering about a threat to national security from Japan's penetration of the memory chip market. If import controls are introduced, Innos need not suffer, because it has a factory in Colorado in which to manufacture behind the barrier.

In the long term, Innos's fortunes may rest on a new type of chip, the "transparent", which the company plans to introduce in 1984. More than any other semiconductor, it will combine the functions of the two types of chip, microprocessor and memory, in a single piece of silicon. That really will be a "computer on a chip".

The 64k RAM market has great growth potential for two or three years before the 256k chips come on stream in large numbers. And the Japanese cannot afford to increase their 70 per cent share, even if they could,

Business Editor

ICI's note of caution

The mood at Millbank has changed appreciably from a year ago when ICI seemed to be making almost a political point about Government economic strategy by talking gloomily about the trading outlook and cutting the dividend for the first time in 40 years.

At least there is now an underlying confidence that the group has taken itself in hand by reshaping the business to cope with a changed trading environment in the 1980s and 1990s. But the tone from yesterday's statement makes it clear that ICI expects to get little help from the marketplace.

What ICI, and for that matter the rest of the world chemical industry, is having to adjust to is much slower rates of growth. Even if the industry could match its earlier expansion of around twice the income of gross national product, it would still be left with acres of overcapacity.

Even now there are about 30 per cent more ethylene plants than required, so what ICI was warning yesterday was not to expect the chemical cycle to be repeated this time with a sharp pick up to a peak sometime in 1983. The world is not going to behave like the 1970s when the chemical industry was in a boom.

Meanwhile, ICI's final quarter proved as robust as outsiders expected with fourth quarter pre-tax profits up to £114m, against £68m in the stronger-than-expected third quarter and last year's very depressed £7m. Confusing the picture, however, was a £20m currency bonus on export debts arising in earlier quarters.

There are at least two elements in the pre-tax profits recovery from £284m to £335m for the full year. One is simply the absence of the previous year's configuration of adverse circumstances — world recession, high interest rates, strong sterling and cost pressures. Some of those factors are still hurting ICI.

The recession is not helping with chemical volume in the fourth quarter only 2 per cent ahead. Weakness in Britain is being compensated by a stronger showing in Western Europe. The "stirring" Deutschmark rate is not proving so injurious and an export business losing £200m the previous year scraped back into the black in 1981.

ICI has also taken steps to put its house in order with the restructuring last year, which cost the group another £50m, from overall fixed costs. And the capital spending programme has been cut from £724m to £411m which together with lower working capital needs has allowed the group to live within its cash flow. Certainly there has been

no deterioration in the balance sheet to suggest any money-raising moves except if the group wants to expand in the United States as the new chairman appears to be thinking.

Perhaps the best measure of ICI's confidence comes in the dividend where the increases in the gross distribution from from 24.3p to 27.1p is at the top end of expectations, particularly when it is uncovered on current cost figures. The near 12½ per cent yield at 328p suggests more scope for the shares after this week's setback with profits heading back towards £500m this year and full dividend restoration.

Insurance

First report

The first report of the Insurance Ombudsman confirms what everyone outside the insurance industry (and some within knew to be the case — that there is a need for an impartial arbitration service to deal with the public's insurance complaints.

During the first nine months of operation the Ombudsman received more than 1,500 enquiries though only 441 concerned the 44 member companies of the Ombudsman's Bureau, set up on the initiative of three of the big insurers, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Legal and General.

Predictably, household insurance provoked the greatest number of complaints closely followed by motor insurance. In 59 cases the insurance company concerned improved its original offer to the policyholder.

But the overall impression is that the largest number of complaints arise because policyholders either do not understand their policies, do not read them, or have been misled. "I am disturbed by the number of people who tell me that because they do not understand forms, or cannot read very well, they let someone else fill in the details on their proposal form and then sign without checking it," commented Ombudsman James Haswell.

The report has received an enthusiastic welcome from the British Insurance Brokers Association. The association points out that the Ombudsman received more than twice as many enquiries about non-member companies as about member companies, which lends additional support to the statement by Reginald Eyre, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Insurance Affairs, who expressed the hope that the insurance industry would consider the advantages to the consumer of an industry-wide complaints procedure.



Allied Irish Banks Limited

Allied Irish Banks Ltd. announce that with effect from close of business on 25th February 1982 their Base Rate is reduced from 14% to 13½% p.a.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Open	Close	Vol	P/E	Dividend
124	100	98	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—	—
75	62	60	Airgroup Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	—
51	33	32	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	—	—
205	187	185	Bardon Hill	201	—	9.7	4.8	9.8	11.9	—
104	70	68	Deborah Services	70x2	—	6.0	8.5	3.5	6.6	—
131	90	88	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8	24.3	—
33	39	37	Frederick Parker	43	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1	—
78	46	44	George Blair	51	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1	—
102	93	91	Ind. Pref. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	—
106	100	98	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—	—
113	94	92	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8	—
130	108	106	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—
334	250	248	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8	—
59	51	49	Scramons "A"	59	—	5.3	9.0	9.1	8.4	—
222	160	158	Toddy & Carlisle	160	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—
15	10	9	Twinkl Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—	—
30	66	64	Twinkl 15% ULIS	75	—	15.0	18.2	—	—	—
44	25	24	Uniclock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—
103	73	71	Walter Alexander	76	—	13.1	8.4	5.0	8.8	—
263	212	210	W. S. Yeates	228	—	6.4	5.7	4.3	8.8	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13½%
Barclays	13½%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	13½%
Lloyds Bank	13½%
Nat'l Bank	13½%
Nat Westminister	13½%
TSB	13½%
Williams & Glyn's	13½%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 up to £50,000 12½%.

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

International orders up one-third

Sales. In the first three months of the current 1981/82 financial year - i.e. from October 1 to December 31, 1981 - Siemens achieved sales of £2,043m, an increase of 13% over the comparable figure of the preceding year. German domestic business pulled slightly ahead of international business with a gain of 15% vs. 12%. While sales in electrical installations and components stagnated under the influence of a sagging economy, and growth in data systems and the lamp business was less than 10%, the power plant, medical engineering, and communications sectors showed gains of more than 15%.

New orders. The continuing weakness of the German economy was reflected clearly in the structure of new orders. Business in the Federal Republic of Germany showed a slight decline to £975m from last year's £979m. Major awards from OPEC countries were the primary factor in a 36% increase of new international orders, which climbed to £1,546m. Siemens thus recorded an overall total of £2,521m in new orders during the first quarter, 19% more than for the same period a year ago. Major contracts valued individually at over £7m accounted for some 20% of this amount. The two large Groups, Power Engineering and Communications, were particularly successful in acquiring contracts for sizable projects in the Middle Eastern oil countries as well as in Australia, Indonesia, and Nigeria. Power engineering, power plant business, and medical engineering achieved growth rates of over 25%.

Total orders in hand reached nearly £12.3bn, 5% more than at the close of the 1980/81 financial year. Inventories rose during the first quarter from £3,920m to £4,025m, thereby growing perceptibly slower than sales.

Employees. Major contracts like those mentioned must first go through the project planning stages and generally take several years to implement; moreover, the performance of certain portions is assigned to local subcontractors in the customer's country. For these reasons such contracts do not initially increase plant capacity utilization, with the result that the number of our

employees continued to decline. Overall, there was a 2% drop during the first quarter to 331,000 people. Of this total, 225,000 are working in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) and 106,000 abroad, in each case 2% fewer than a year ago. Since capacity utilization continues to be unsatisfactory, it is possible that in addition to the reduction of personnel by natural wastage some layoffs will have to be made on a selective basis.

Employment cost. The average number of our employees for the first quarter was 334,000 - 3% less than last year's comparable figure.

Employment cost, however, rose to £927m as against £886m last year.

Capital expenditure and investment. Primarily due to weather-induced project delays, the figure for capital expenditure and investment was 19% lower than for the first three months of the preceding year.

Net income. There was a slight rise in net income, although the rounded and translated figure (£33m) remained the same as last year's. At 1.6%, the net profit margin was thus below the 1.8% for the comparable period a year ago, but above the total year's average of 1.5%.

In £m	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
New orders	2,043	2,521	+24%
Domestic business	979	975	0%
International business	1,140	1,546	+36%
Sales	2,043	2,521	+24%
Domestic business	845	968	+15%
International business	962	1,075	+12%

In £m	30/9/81	31/12/81	Change
Orders in hand	12,300	12,700	+3%
Inventory	3,920	4,025	+3%

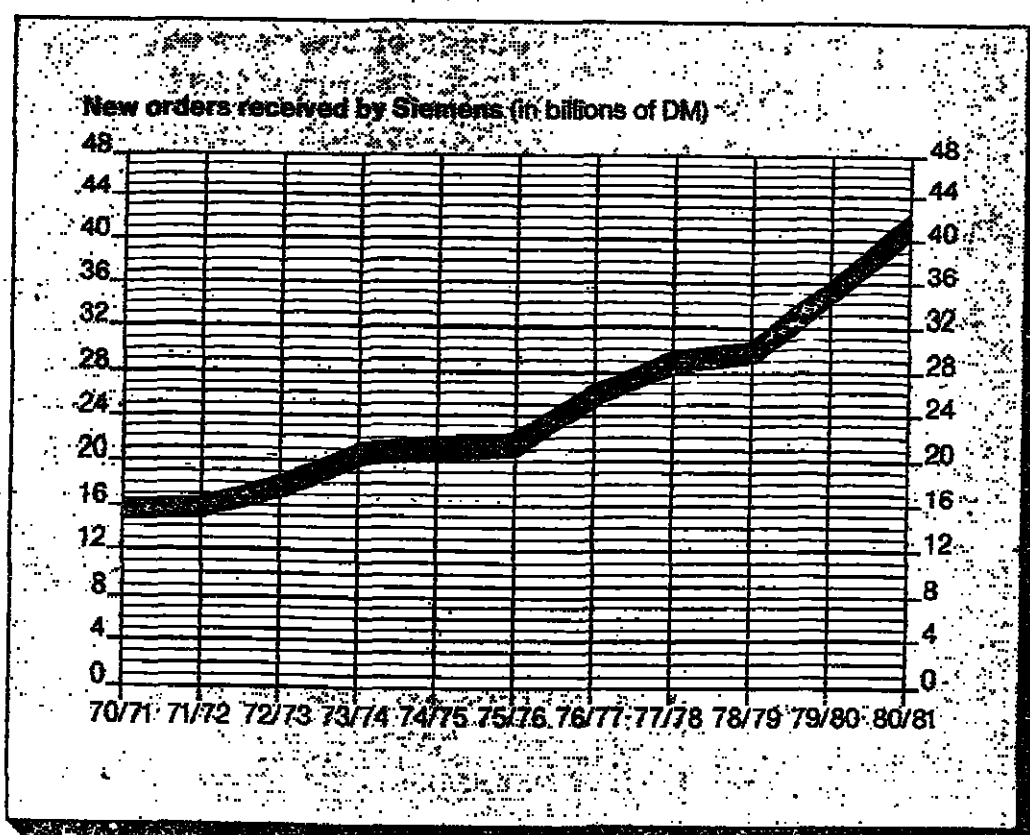
In thousands	30/9/81	31/12/81	Change
Employees	338	331	-2%
Domestic operations	230	225	-2%
International operations	108	106	-2%

	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
Average number of employees in thousands	345	334	-3%
Employment cost in £m	886	927	+5%

In £m	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	88	72	-18%
Net income after taxes	33	33	0%
In % of sales	1.8	1.6	-11%

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on December 31, 1981: £1 = DM 4.310.

Accelerated growth despite recession



The volume of new orders received by Siemens has increased two and a half times over the last decade. The last two financial years have shown particularly vigorous growth, with new order gains of 19% and 18%. In the first quarter of the current financial year Siemens again saw a 19% rise in new orders, despite a persistently unfavourable world economy. While orders from the Federal Republic of Germany remained at last year's levels, international orders increased 36%.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

BUSINESS NEWS

ROWNTREE

Profit rise reinforces Huntley bid

Rowntree Mackintosh added fuel to its £72.6m bid for Huntley and Palmer yesterday with pretax profits for last year showing a 23 per cent rise to £40.6m.

Although profits were below forecasts it was enough to see Huntley's share price drop 2p to 105p, which matches the price placed on the group by Rowntree's offer, a mix of cash and shares. Rowntree's shares, down at first 2p at 164p, recovered to 168p.

The figures for the year to January 2, based on management estimates and unaudited, have been brought forward to present with the offer document. A 10.3 per cent lift in the final gross dividend to 7.57p, making a total payment of 11.42p, is proposed and new shareholders, assuming the bid goes through, would rank for the final.

Rowntree, which has had a strategic investment for 10 years in Huntley and Palmer and owns 23.8 per cent of the equity, has been rejected by the Huntley board who describe the bid as "wholly inadequate and unwelcome".

Mr Kenneth Dixon, head of the chocolate group, said again the bid was not a defensive move prompted by Allied-Lyons' bidding up its 4 per cent stake at the end of last year.

Nor, he said, did it conflict with Rowntree's plans for further expansion in the United States, indicated at last year's £42m rights issue. "We have been looking in the US but have not yet found the right profitable business. This bid does not stop us looking," he said.

The main thrust of Rowntree's argument is that Huntley, with estimated profits of £7.5m for 1981 and total borrowings of £38m or gearing of 49 per cent, cannot afford to update plant and machinery and improve its competitiveness.

The merger, it says, would benefit Huntley in the long-term by providing the capital it needs.

PLESSEY

30pc better

Plessey, the British electronics giant has announced a 30 per cent profit increase for the first nine months of the financial year to January 1, 1982, compared with the same period last year.

Pre-tax profits for the last quarter rose to £27.5m from £22m the previous year, bringing the nine-month total to £78.7m from £60.7m.

Telecommunications contributed substantially to the growth of the company, operating profits rising to £27m in the first nine months of the year compared with £25m last time.

Aerospace and engineering increased their profits by 14 per cent, while microelectronics rose by 26 per cent.

Third quarter sales were £224.6m compared to the £204.3m level of the previous year, bringing the total for the nine months to £673.9m compared with £603m a year earlier.

Third quarter earnings per share were 7.17p, up from 6.59p and the nine-month earnings per share level was 20.59p, compared with 16.75p the previous year. Interim dividend is 3.54p, up 10 per cent.

CHARTERHOUSE

Bid for CCP

Charterhouse Petroleum emerged yesterday as the bidder for CCP North Sea Associates, a small North Sea exploration investment company in which Mr Henry Cluff's Cluff Oil holds nearly 30 per cent of the shares.

CCP's shares, which are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market, were suspended last week at 145p pending details of the bid approach. Last night they rose to 185p.

The terms are that Charterhouse Petroleum is offering two of its own shares plus 50p in cash for each ordinary share in CCP. At last night's closing price for Charterhouse shares of 71p, they value the bid at about £15 or 192p a share.



Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman Rowntree Mackintosh.

Subject to shareholders' approval, Cluff Oil has undertaken to recommend the bid and will pledge its own 29.9 per cent interest to acceptance of the offer.

CCP's chief asset is a 6 per cent net production interest in the North Sea's Buchan field, operated by BP. It also has a 5 per cent interest in two other blocks in the Moray Firth, 12/28 and 20/8. Significantly Charterhouse Petroleum has interests in two neighbouring blocks to these, 20/2 and 21/7.

Cluff Oil will emerge, if the deal goes through, with between 3 and 7 per cent of the shares in Charterhouse Petroleum. The proceeds will help to finance Cluff's other explorations in the North Sea.

RENSON

Payout warning

Renson Goldfields Consolidated, the mining company formed last year from Consolidated Gold Fields' Australian interests, made a pretax loss of A\$4.87m (£2.86m) in its first half year. An interim dividend of 5 cents has been declared, but Mr Max Roberts, RGC's chairman, warned that in the full year shareholders may not receive the 50 cents forecast at the time of the merger.

The company blames low metal prices, industrial disputes, and loss of production for results below those expected. The advantages of high tin prices were more than offset by industrial disputes, and the company warns that tin prices are falling again.

Output from Mount Lyell, the copper mine, fell because the mine plan dictated that lower grade ore be won. Mineral sand production suffered from depressed titanium prices. All the company's operations were hindered by the strength of the Australian dollar. Nevertheless, the group continues to blame pressure on margins which caused sales to fall from £2.5m to £2.1m. This, coupled with increased overheads and a shift to short term orders by several of the group's customers has impaired factory efficiency.

Nevertheless, the factory has been trading profitably since September and orders are between 50 and 60 per cent higher than during the comparable period last year.

As a result, the board feels confident that the group will return to profit in the second half which may be enough to eradicate the losses of the first six months. The shares rose 1p to 17p.



The Royal Bank of Scotland Interest Rates

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from close of business on February 25, 1982, its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 14 per cent per annum to 13½ per cent per annum.

As from close of business on March 1, 1982, its Mortgage Rate is being reduced to 15 per cent per annum.



BANK OF SCOTLAND

Base Rate

The Bank of Scotland intimates that, as from 25th February 1982, and until further notice, its Base Rate will be decreased from 14% PER ANNUM to 13½% PER ANNUM.

LONDON, BIRMINGHAM & BRISTOL OFFICES — DEPOSITS

The rate of interest on sums lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be 11% PER ANNUM, also with effect from 25th February, 1982.

ICE HOCKEY

From Srikumar Sen, Copenhagen, Feb 25

often gives little help to the local crowd. It Jones should hear the glow of candour he should not take it that they want him to step up the action but that they are enjoying the contest.

Palm's record is impressive. He won 54 of his 58 amateur bouts, including the 1976 European and Vasily Loshakov, a Russian light weight. His professional record is, just as good. Jones will be his 20th British opponent. Nine—others, including American McKenna, the British and Canadian Pearce light-welterweight champion, and four Welshmen—Chris Davies, Billy Wain, Horace Williams and Mickey Pearce—have failed to master the resilient Dane.

Pearce did manage to floor him; but he picked himself up and came back to outpoint the Dane. If he can rise and come down, and be sound, Palm will stay down.

After Ray Catrouse's credible draw in Italy on Wednesday night it is likely that Jones can make the winning run for the three others in line for European titles shortly—Maurice Hope, Pat Barry and Maurice Hope.

By Clive White

denied to retire. At the age of 30, he no longer had the desire to continue his career but through the kindness of his wife had the time attempt.

Knocked out by Tony Silson last September, he saw even the Eastern States Amateur as a further into the distance on Sunday when the Leicester man outpenned Dwight Davidson to claim his first victory.

Minter, who has always been keen to encourage the younger professionals in the sport, will be sharing his knowledge and own experiences by helping to train and instruct junior ABA champions on week-long school holidays at the Royal Birkdale Club. Trucks was announced yesterday. It is thought to be the first link between a professional boxer and the ABA.

Minter said: "It took me a long time to reach the decision. I spent many hours on my own and tried to find a way to make it work. It's boxing is the only job I've ever done so it's very hard. I was a long, hard road but I have made it."

His amateur and professional career spanned 18 years during which time he built up a reputation as a tough and powerful fighter. He was labelled "Pound-punch"

Seventeen months after holding the world middleweight championship, Alan Minter has de-

denied to retire. At the age of 30, he no longer had the desire to continue his career but through the kindness of his wife had the time attempt.

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Minter, who has always been keen to encourage the younger professionals in the sport, will be sharing his knowledge and own experiences by helping to train and instruct junior ABA champions on week-long scholarship camps at the end of the year. Trucks was announced yesterday. It is thought to be the first link between a professional boxer and the ABA.

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His amateur and professional career spanned 18 years during which time he built up a reputation as a tough and powerful fighter. He was labelled "Pound-punch."



From Ross Waby, New York, Feb 23

Wayne Gretzky, of the Edmonton Oilers, scored the 77th, 78th and 79th goals of the professional ice hockey season last night, breaking the old record of 76 goals.

In the remaining 16 games of the National Hockey League season he is expected to push the record close to 100. His feat, in a 6-3 defeat of the Buffalo Sabres, brought a telegram from the president of the league congratulating him on "your extraordinary achievement," it said.

Gretzky stands apart from other players. He is a slender young man, just turned 21, with soft, wavy hair and a friendly smile. He is not the scarred, gap-toothed countenances that abound in the league.

He is one of the slowest and physically weakest players in the league. He is not the fastest or the most perceptive or reaction. This gives him an advantage and opponents marvel at the way the puck appears to follow him.

so now I don't think when I am on the ice," Gretsky explains. "It just comes to me." He avoids violent, body checking. "When he is hitting me, I just retreat and get away from him. I am aware of him so his kicking is his reputation and he is known as 'the Great Gretsky'."

Before this season only two players had scored 50 goals in 52 games: Maurice Richard in 1944-45 and Alex Ross in 1950-51.

Gretsky set a league record of 165 points—50 goals and 113 assists—last season, and became the first player ever to average more than two points a game.

Gretsky began skating at two and a half on a home rink built by his father and entered organized hockey at six. His father told him that year that he was "a little bit of a star."

That prophecy was realized last month when the Edmonton Oilers renegotiated Gretsky's contract agreeing to pay him more than \$20m over the next

By Richard Eaton

England spent yesterday afternoon at Huddersfield Sports Centre on the brink of their third successive title in the triangular challenge against Sweden and Japan, sponsored by Volvo.

They had an instant lead over Sweden, with Japan in third place and three players in the semifinals of the singles. It was a further display of the muscle that England brought to flex in the international arena.

At the last moment, though, they were checked by an attack of hiccupps. First Torbjörn Petersson, a last-minute withdrawal from the tournament, when Thomas Klüthman withdrew and ranked only eighth in Sweden, inflicted England's first defeat. Then he bent the neck of another group favourite, the national runner-up, 18-16, 15-10. That denied England the clean sweep of the semifinals there as well.

The following even bigger surprise when Mike Tredgett and Martin Dew, the Friends-Provident Masters champions, lost to Japanese 19-17, 15-11 by the No 2 Swedish pair, Claes Nordin and Lars Wengberg. This put them into a tie with Stefan and Steven Stevens. The Swedes had to

wins both events to deny England the title.

Defeat for Tredgett and Dew came three days after they had been crowned second runners-up in the proceedings for the All-England championships.

Nordin is one of badminton's most unpredictable talents. Three years ago when he began beating the likes of Thomas Craxton and Stefan Karlsson between Treggett and Stevens. A year later they succeeded them as European champions in the same title.

It held. The season after the pair was split and Nordin's fortunes suffered a decline. After best he borders on the fading.

SINGLES RESULTS:

Taichudai (Japan) beat Wengberg (Sweden), 15-11, 15-10.
Tschudi (Japan) beat Nordin (Sweden), 15-11, 15-10.
England, 15-11, 15-10; 15-10, 15-10.
Nordin (Sweden) beat Stevens (England), 15-11, 15-10.
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LATE RESULTS ON FRIDAY

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RUGBY LEAGUE

By Keith Macklin

Leigh officials feared the worst as they awaited the outcome of yesterday's disciplinary committee meeting at Leeds and the whereabouts of the players.

Leigh will face Hull Kingston Rovers on Humberdale in the Challenge Cup second round on Saturday. The club's star players, the pack leader Tommy Marlyn and the scrum half Ken Green. Despite personal appearances, neither player was part of one match and two matches respectively.

If Leigh are worst bit by the visitors, it would be disastrous to have to play in this weekend's challenge cup ties without important team members. Although the club has a number of reserves, the absence of two forwards, the experienced Shaw and the promising young McLaughlin, will not help matters. The club's regular holders Widnes. Widnes will themselves be without their latest star discovery, the utility back, who also received a one-match suspension.

In the case of Wigan's Shaw the player can feel that the fates have been kind to him. Although he was suspended against his own club, he is not suspended against his sending off.

against Leigh last Sunday on the grounds of mistaken identity. It was found not guilty, but Nemiss overruled the decision. Nemiss recorded causes for which he received a one-match ban.

Hull Kingston Rovers did not get off scot-free. Their second row forward, Burgess, was suspended for two matches. Fullback, who have an attractive home side against Hull, had their broken. Dalgreen, who has a fine reputation, but at least this is not really neutralized by a one-match suspension given to Rull's hooker Wileman.

Rochdale Hornets, who visit Hull in the cup, will be well out their forward Gardie, and the winger Holland, who each received a one-match punishment and a suspension from Wigan. Town forward, who appealed against the one-match decision which would keep him out of the tie at Bradford. The appeal was turned down.

SUSPENSIONS: FIVE
Dalgreen: Three matches; Claxson: Two matches; Burgess: Two matches; Wileman, Marlyn: One match; McCarren, Holland: One game; G. Shaw: One game.

GOLF

Young golfers aiming to become professionals were given a warm welcome yesterday by Bommallack, Britain's most famous amateur.

Bommallack, now 47, was spending two weeks before his general election as president of the English Golf Union. He revealed that 200 British players cannot seek reinstatement as amateurs because they have already won too many youngsters' than professional too soon. Last year, the European tournament players had 100 professionals, who played to average of plus two, and there were only one amateur golfer with handicap in England.

Bommallack said the Professional Golfers' Association used "a generous" to make amateurs pay the cost of making the final.

RUGBY UNION

Donovan recalled for fourth cap

[illegible]

ROWING

By a Special Correspondent

Clare moved into the challenger's position when they caught the deposed head boat Lady Margaret, to the cheers of the spectators at The PloUGH on the river bank, where the Lents. The new leaders, Trimity Hall, rowed over untroubled, but they were not too convincing in their new role. Of course, so a fine race is likely tonight.

Although starting nearer first place, Downing, clocked by the 1981 CUBC president, James Palmer, at 45 off the start, again failed to reach the corner, catching in a Rutwiliam going into the bend.

Clare continued to go for quick kills, pouncing on Peterhouse in the first division. It appeared likely the division would be a Clare-Peterhouse convoy at the top, but Clare caught Churchill in the last few

Oriel; stroked on bow side, kept off Kibble's challenge for the second successive day to stay head crew in Oxford Torpids yesterday. On Wednesday, Kibble was close to within half length before catching a crab; yesterday, Oriel appeared to have found something extra, with a length to spare approaching the boat-houses and just under that at the finish. In division three St Edmund Hall II collided with the boat and sank.

There was no change at the top in the women's competition either, Jesus, Somerville and Lady Margaret Hall rowing over for the second successive day.

FEBRUARY		31	29	28	27
CLARE					

By Jim Bailton

Oriel, stroked on bow side, kept off Keble's challenge for the second successive day to stay head crew in Oxford Torpids yesterday. On Wednesday, Keble closed to within half a length before catching a crab; yesterday, Oriel appeared to have found something extra, with a length spare, and was racing the boat-house and nursing her that day's finish. In division three St Edmund Hall II collided with the bank and sank.

There was no change at the top in the women's competition either, Jesus, Somerville and Lady Margaret all staying clear for the second successive day.

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

Stone	7
Firebrands	4

Stone, one of two Midland clubs to reach the final stages of the national indoor championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, qualified for the semi-final round at Crystal Palace last night before a capacity crowd of 700. Their early sparkle enabled them to beat Firebrands, the Somerset champions, in an exciting match.

In 1975, under a different format, Stone reached the final 16 when they lost to Tulse Hill. Having come through this time

HOCKEY

from a tough qu-
they did well to

The Midlands club seized the initiative in a six minutes spell of fire and brasserie, running up three goals. In doing so, the old Grimsby side met the first treble of the tournament.

But the fire of the West Country club was not yet extinguished even though Stone had increased their lead to 4-0 through Rotins. They came back strongly with Ewing converting a corner and Armstrong scored his first touch of the ball, having come on timely as a substitute.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl a) and *Chlorophyll b* (Chl b) are the primary photosynthetic pigments in green plants. They are responsible for capturing light energy and converting it into chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis. Chl a is the most abundant pigment, while Chl b is present in smaller amounts. Both pigments are found in the chloroplasts of green plants.

From John Ballantyne
Miami, Feb. 25

Jack Nicklaus drove into the lake that cuts into the 18th fairway of the 7,065 yard "Blue Monster" course here, but he scored 67 and was an early joint leader in the first round of the Doral Eastern Open today. The other leaders were Bobby Wadkins, the winner of the inaugural European open in 1978, and a little-known California, Eric Batten.

Reserves step into the spotlight

By Joyce Whitehead

Today and tomorrow provide curtain raisers for the home countries' women's international matches which start on Monday night at the international B. squad from the four home countries are playing one another on the Lancashire ground at 7.30 pm. Scotland will be at Trafford. At 2.50 pm Scotland play England, followed by Wales v Ireland at 5.00 pm. Tomorrow play will be at 2.50 pm.

The players have nothing to lose and, in some cases, much to gain. The players who will be in the squad are: England—Kirkcaldy, with captainess England

CRICKET

From Peter McFarlane, Wellington, Feb 25

The first Test of the three-match series between Australia and New Zealand begins here tomorrow with the threat of an early start because of rain over the sides. There is also some doubt that play will start on time, unless there is a dramatic change in the weather.

Persistent rain at the Basin Reserve ground in the past five days has given the groundstaff little chance of preparing a Test-standard pitch.

A few sceptical of the wicket's qualities after last Saturday's one-day international here in which New Zealand were bowled out for 67 runs while which had been affected by rain.

The Australians' preparation for the match has been hindered by the weather. The three-day tour of New Zealand by Napier lasted only three and a half hours before rain set in and the match was abandoned.

New Zealand have included four batsmen in their 12 and two spinners. Badly injured Trounri are expected to play, with the final choice being between Smeaden and Mackinnon.

At No. 19, right-hand batsman may be making his Test debut.

Crowe, an exciting striker of the bat, who has won success in the one-day series, which was won by Australia, but he was forced to bat at No. 3. In this match, that position will be taken by the new arrival, who has never been recalled at the age of 34 for his first Test since New Zealand's tour of India in 1976. Morrison played in the 1980-81 season and captained Wellington

to victory in the inter-provincial Shell Shield. Morrison also has extensive knowledge of the vagaries of the Basin Reserve wicket.

The Australians have included the off spinner, Yardley, in their 12 for the match and he is expected to play at the expense of a pace bowler, Pascoe. With 38 wickets Yardley was Australia's most successful bowler in the Test Indies earlier this year.

Both the Australian and West Indian Cricket Board and the New Zealand Cricket Council have agreed that the test will be fixed for slow over rates in this series. For failing to achieve more than 14 overs an hour throughout a match, a side will be fined \$NZ1,000 (about £400).

AUSTRALIA (from): G S Chappell (captain), R C Hughes, B M Laird, D L Underwood, J A Mason, P W Marsh, B Yardley, D K Lillee, T Thomson, T M Oskman, I S Pascoe.

NEW ZEALAND (from): G P Meek, C E B Fyfe, R E Bell, J Wright, J F M Macgregor, M J Coney, J H Stanger, J A Burns, M J McInnes, G C Troub, E C Cartfield, B J Larsen.

● Sri Lanka arrived in Karachi yesterday for five-week tour, including three Tests against a Pakistan side likely to be without 10 leading internationals, who have suffered from injuries made the captaincy of Javed Miandad.

● Northamptonshire made a profit of about £1,000, their best year financially.

● Gloucestershire have signed Robert Russell, a 19-year-old wicket keeper.

SQUASH

As: $\frac{1}{2} \times 100 = 50$ **Ans:** 50

After two days of competition in the first round, the London Masters tournament produced an extended match. The first eight matches went to the minimum of 15 frames, with the exception of the Australia-Dean Williams, of Australia, and Ross Norman, of Great Britain, who played a cracking, five-game match.

Norman is ranked eighth in the world and Williams is one below him. Both players know each other well, having previously played as they have lived depended upon it.

In the other match, Jahangir Khan, the three-time world champion, beat the South African number 1, Roland Watson. The curly Watson, ranked ten in the world, was in a stubborn mood and beat Jahangir 5-4 in the second frame.

However, Jahangir stepped up a gear and won the match in 33 minutes, finishing the ball to all corners of the court with great economy.

QUARTER-FINALS: Jahangir Khan 5-0, Willie Thorne 5-0, Ross Norman 5-0, Dean Williams 5-0, Gary Anderson 5-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

[illegible]

FEBRUARY		24	25	26	27
I	LATIC TRINITY HALL PERCIBONE CLARE PITTSVILLE SHRAMUEL DOWNING JESUS SELAVER 14 & 24A TRINITY CLARE MAGDALENE PETERBORO NEWBY SUGGES CLARE CHURCHILL				
II	CLARE CHRISTI QUICKEN LINCOLN SELAVER ST CATHARINE'S CLARE MAGDALENE II TRINITY HALL II CHURCHILL II QUICKEN II LINCOLN II DOWNING II				
III	PERCIBONE II NEWBY SUGGES II PETERBORO II CHURCHILL II SELAVER II PITTSVILLE II ST CATHARINE'S II TRINITY HALL II CLARE II DARTMOUTH CHURCHILL II				
IV	GURTON 14 & 24A TRINITY II CLARE CHRISTI II SUMMIT SUGGES II ST CATHARINE'S III DOWNING III PITTSVILLE III QUICKEN III MAGDALENE III SELAVER III 14 & 24A TRINITY IV ADENBOROES CLARE III CHURCHILL IV LINCOLN III CLARE IV PERCIBONE III				
V	PERCIBONE III 14 & 24A TRINITY MAGDALENE IV CLARE V SELAVER III CLARE CHURCHILL V PETERBORO III ST EDMUND'S HOUSE CLARE LINCOLN IV ROBINSON II GURTON II				
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SKING CONDITIONS

Depth (cm)		Conditions		Weather			
L U		Off		Runs to resort			
Arosa							
Powder on good base		Good		Powder		Good	
Undermatt		Good		Powder		Good	
Icy patches on south slopes		Good		Varied		Icy	
Courmayeur		146 272		Good		Varied	
Good snow on all slopes		50 130		Good		Powder	
Grandval		50 130		Good		Powder	
Good skiing everywhere		140 185		Good		Varied	
Sol		140 185		Good		Varied	
Excellent piste skis		130 235		Good		Varied	
Closters		130 235		Good		Varied	
New spring snow on good base		170 310		Good		Powder	
A Blanche		170 310		Good		Powder	
Good skiing everywhere		135 240		Good		Powder	
Mürren		135 240		Good		Powder	
Powder on hard base		118 420		Good		Powder	
St Anton		118 420		Good		Powder	
Good skiing off piste		60 130		Good		Good	
Wengen		60 130		Good		Good	
Good skiing on and off piste		50 160		Fair		Varied	
Zermatt		50 160		Fair		Poor	
Warm patches on lower slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from tourist boards:

GERMANY									
Depth		State		Weather					
L U		Piste		°C					
Augsburg									
Gerachsdorf		50 110		—					
Kerschbaum		50 110		—					
Kochel		50 110		—					
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BBC 2

Radio 4

**Book at
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